

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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PNC CHAIRMAN AL-FAHUM ADDRESSES COUNCIL SESSION IN DAMASCUS

JN1518323Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1532 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Speech by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, at the opening of the council's 14th session held at the conference hall of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions in Damascus on 15 January 1979--live]

[Text] Mr President: We are accustomed to beginning our national meeting by paying tribute to our righteous martyrs. This time the convoy of martyrs is adorned by the late President Houari Boumediene, that great leader whom death claimed so suddenly. The world greatly admires his enormous achievements for Algeria and his great service to Palestine and other great Arab issues. Boumediene loved Palestine. He thought of Palestine even when he was fully occupied with the Algerian issue. His death is a great loss for us. We sincerely hope that fraternal Algeria will continue on the path of reconstruction and its great pan-Arab role for the sake of dignity and liberation.

We have decided to call this session, the 14th session of the Palestine National Council, the session of the late martyr Houari Boumediene. Let us therefore rise, brothers, and observe a moment of silence in honor of the late leader and our righteous martyrs. [a moment of silence observed] Thank you.

His excellency the brother President of the Syrian Arab Republic, dear guests, brother colleagues: I warmly welcome you in the name of the PLO. I thank the president and all our brothers for kindly attending the opening session of the Palestine National Council in its 14th session. We were accustomed in past years to hold our council sessions in Cairo, when it was the bastion of steadfastness and the center of Arab struggle. But the Egyptian regime has diverted Cairo from its objectives and twisted its neck so it will follow the path of capitulation. Thus, we turned to Damascus, the den of Al-Asad [Arabic for lion]. Damascus' arms are always open to every Arab. Damascus is always willing to assume an additional burden and an additional sacrifice. We are very grateful to the brother president and the Syrian Arab Republic for the facilities given us to hold this session in Damascus.

I hope that our discussions and decisions will establish that we are worthy of the confidence of our struggle and steadfast Palestinian Arab people inside and outside the homeland and that we are proceeding toward achieving their aspirations and objectives of continuing the struggle until victory. I also hope that our meetings will produce tangible results to reassure our brothers in the occupied territory, bolster their struggle and assure them that the compelling circumstances preventing their representatives from taking their natural places in this council will not prevent us from giving their steadfastness our primary attention. After all, the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territory is the basic guarantee for the continuation and the success of our cause. Let this fact be the epitome of our council.

We are at a time in which it is being said that steadfastness is a negative value. We are being asked to abandon our most fundamental struggle values so our Zionist enemy and its imperialist mentor will be pleased by our rationalism. We tell these people, were it not for our steadfastness, the world would not have respected us. As-Sadat himself would not have obtained a promise for formal Israeli withdrawal from Sinai were it not for our steadfastness, which he traded at the Camp David market. Let As-Sadat know that were it not for the steadfastness of the Egyptian people and army, the Israelis would have even asked for Cairo. Anwar as-Sadat is a defeated person who represents a narrowly spreading but dangerous phenomenon: the phenomenon of supporting everything that is against the people and the homeland as a means of avoiding responsibility, obligation and sacrifice. Right from the beginning he went about destroying the image of the immortal hero of Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, yet he claimed that he was continuing the mission of 'Abd an-Nasir. Right from the beginning also, he went about severing Egypt's ties with the Arab world, yet he claimed that he was fighting for Egypt's dignity and future. For 3 years he bragged about rejecting any separate solution, then he signed the strangest separate solution in contemporary history. He also visited Jerusalem, claiming that he wanted to liberate it. Then he agreed to it as the capital of the enemy.

The agreements now being signed among the Egyptian ruler, Israel and the United States are agreements of separate defeat. They do not represent the will of the Egyptian or Palestinian people, nor of Arabs elsewhere. The Camp David agreements are a separate peace in every sense of the word because none other than the Egyptian regime has signed them. They are a separate capitulation, because they entrench Israeli occupation of our territory. They are a separate agreement not only in the sense that they were signed in isolation of the rest of the Arab countries but also in the sense that they are the work of an isolated ruler who does not express the opinion of his people.

As you all know, the Egyptian Arab people are brave struggler Arab people who are always ready to make sacrifices. Just as the late president, Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, once said: Let us leave such rulers to their peoples, we also say: Let us leave As-Sadat to the Egyptian people. The Egyptian people have a great deal to avenge on As-Sadat. The Suez Canal Bulge was not the first humiliating act and the Camp David deal was not the last. The Egyptian people know when to open the bulge and when to bridge it in order to return to us as pure Arabs, dignified and brave.

Brothers, the traitors and defeatists think that the talk about Palestine is a kind of outbidding or some sort of imagination. We believe that Palestine's real battle has never been so close. They have tried for the past 30 years to minimize the importance of the Palestinian question. At first they transformed it into a question of refugees, and they rested. But the Palestinian revolution soon arose from among the refugees. It exploded and destroyed the bridges. In a matter of 10 years the name of Palestine returned and became recognized by the nations of the world and the United Nations. The name of Palestine also took the form of a liberation organization, sacrifices and resistance.

Today they are again trying to present the question as an autonomy issue for the people in the occupied territory. The situation is being repeated. But they are trying the impossible, for the revolution is proceeding in full strength because it is the Arabs' revolution for the sake of Palestine and the Palestinians' revolution for the sake of the Arabs.

Brothers, the sordid picture presented by As-Sadat's activities and contacts with the enemy and Egypt's removal from the battlefield is faced by another bright picture. There is the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and the Baghdad summit. All these steps are an answer to the defeatist policy. They are steps to utilize all the Arab nation's resources in the battle. Above all, there is also our Arab nation's resolve to stand fast and wage the battle until victory. We are adding a Palestinian answer to the Arab answer by beginning a new phase of honor. The resistance groups have agreed on a single political program based on adherence to the firm national rights of our people in their homeland in Palestine; the defense of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the one Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine; the firm determination to continue the armed struggle and all forms of political struggle; the rejection of decisions and settlements detracting from our rights; the resistance to and foiling of the autonomy plan, which entrenches Zionist colonialism in our insistence on our right to self-determination and the establishment of our independent state on our national soil.

Our relations with Syria, as unanimously asserted by all the resistance factions, are relations of present, future and fate. Steadfast, struggling and lofty Syria was and will continue to be our shelter, springboard and support. The interaction of our Arab people in Syria with our cause and fate was matched only in our contemporary history by the interaction of North Vietnam with the people of South Vietnam in the great epic of struggle for liberation.

We view with hope and optimism the unionist steps that are currently in full progress by Iraq and Syria. We consider them the solid basis for the battle of honor and dignity, the battle for the liberation of the land and the restoration of rights.

Brothers, just as there is a regrouping [farz] on the Arab level, a similar regrouping should take place on the international level. The United States and its allies are dragging the Egyptian regime to sign agreements that would enable Zionism to annex the aggressor's entity and the policy of settlement and Judaization. The current agreements are not a sign of balance, as the Americans are trying to make us believe. They rather crown the policy of bias and absolute support for the Zionist schemes. As a result of this fact and the long years of experience, the PLO will strengthen its relations with socialist countries, headed by the friendly Soviet Union, with the nonaligned countries, the Islamic countries and the rest of the friendly countries.

Brother strugglers, our future is bright and theirs is gloomy. This is because we adhere to the right and struggle and they are panting along behind agency and subservience. The steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territories is the best example. The pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, the Syrian-Iraqi meeting, and the Baghdad summit conference represent our protective fence and stronghold. The PLO embodies our hopes and asserts the continuity of our revolution. In light of these concepts the PNC holds its 14th session. I am pleased, Mr President, to invite you to address this session.

Brothers, his excellency brother struggler President Hafiz al-Asad will talk to you.
[applause]

Syrian President Speaks

JN151700Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1550 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Sadad at the opening of the 14th session of the Palestine National Council held at the conference hall of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions in Damascus on 15 January 1979--live]

[Text] Brother members of the Palestine National Council: Greetings of brotherhood and struggle. I warmly and sincerely welcome the convocation of the 14th session of your council in Damascus. I also welcome our brothers and friends, the guests of the council. On your behalf I also greet those you represent--the masses of the Palestinian people. I particularly greet our steadfast and heroic kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territory. I assure them of our support for their splendid steadfastness and continuous resistance against the Zionist occupation and the conspiracies that are being hatched to deprive them of their national identity and to sever their ties with their people and nation.

By these greetings and this welcome, I am also expressing the pleasure of your brothers, our people in this country, and our party--the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party--that this meeting is being held in Syria, which, with Palestine, has always formed a single body and shared a common history. Syria has fought and continues to fight the imperialist policy of division here and throughout the Arab homeland. We have always been comrades in struggle and comrades in arms in fighting this imperialist plan since the turn of this century and throughout our long struggle against Zionism and imperialism and for the unity of the Arab nation.

Out of our belief that Arab unity is the sublime objective that will restore the normal situation in the Arab homeland, consider the convocation of the Palestine National Council in any Arab capital as the expression of the unity of our nation. Also, out of our firm conviction of the firm Arab rights to our occupied territory, we emphasize the need to continue the struggle with you and all our Arab brothers until the day comes when the Palestine National Council will again meet in the very spot that witnessed its first session: in other words, in Arab Jerusalem. [applause]

Brother council members, great events have taken place in the Arab homeland since the council's first session in 1964. Some of these events were positive and others were negative. The center of all these events was the first cause of the Arabs--the Palestinian question. This question was the main motivator of these events and the bone of contention between us and our enemies.

Zionism has tried, and has been succeeding for a long time, in making the world understand that this was a border dispute that could be settled like any other border dispute in the world. But the enlightened people in this world soon realized that this was a conflict of existence and that Zionist imperialism wanted land, hegemony and domination. Zionism was thus exposed for what it really is: an imperialist, racist and colonialist movement like all other hideous racist movements, with the special distinction that the Zionist movement controls all centers of influence in the imperialist regimes.

Our enemies had thought that they had the technological superiority to decide the issue once and for all through brutal force and to impose their wish on the Arab nation. They planned the June 1967 aggression as the final battle in their favor. They failed to realize that determined and resolute nations can quickly rise again, regain strength and defend their existence.

They failed to realize also that the will of nations cannot be killed through a setback or the loss of a single battle. They failed to understand that nations soon learn the lesson, rectify their mistakes, regain the initiative and resume the planning and struggle to achieve victory. The glorious October war aborted the calculations of Zionism and those who support and back it. It exposed their miscalculation and confirmed the Arab nation's rejection of submission and capitulation. It showed that the Arab nation can defend its rights and emerge victorious in its struggle. The October war was a heroic epic and vivid evidence of Arab resources and capabilities, particularly the intrinsic power of the Arab individual.

We waged the October war as a war of liberation, while others waged it as a war of reactivation. This gave our enemies the chance to try and pounce upon the results of the October war, which shook up the Israeli entity and had deep effects in the entire world, not only in the strategic field but in political, economic and other fields.

Although I am saying for the first time after the October war that we waged the October war as a war of liberation, this was confirmed in the military operations and plans on the basis of which we waged the war. I also affirmed this in my speech to the people and the armed forces on the 10th day of the war while the military operations were in progress. I said: I speak to you today and the battle has taken its real form, the form of a total war of liberation. I said this in several places in the speech. I also said that freedom and dignity have a price that is undoubtedly high. I also said that we were ready to pay this price in defense of our honor and liberty and in order to liberate the land and regain our rights.

I am referring to this because it might shed some light on many instances of behavior after the October war. I am not trying to answer much that has been said in the past years.

The deviation of the Egyptian regime from the objectives of the war of liberation has enabled these enemies to try and avenge the October war through the incidents they created in Lebanon. They paved the way to the conspiracy whose stages we are witnessing--the Camp David conspiracy--which was a deliberate scheme to strike against Arab solidarity and to isolate Egypt from the confrontation arena by a unilateral agreement. They think that this agreement will rob Egypt of its Arab affiliation, enable them to deal a decisive blow to the idea of pan-Arabism, and along these lines, and perhaps simultaneously, accomplish the liquidation of the basic issue--the issue of Palestine.

At this point it is worthwhile mentioning that the insistence on signing what pertains to self-rule at the same time as signing the Sinai agreement falls within this framework--the framework of determination to liquidate the Palestinian issue because self-rule is a Zionist demand. All have recently heard several statements by certain Israeli leaders saying that if the peace treaty is not signed, they will implement self-rule because they believe that self-rule is a process of putting the Israeli house in order in a manner that permits them to preserve the Jewish nature of the Israeli state.

Some people are trying to depict this matter as an adherence to violent struggle and sacrifice for the Palestinian issue. It is a large-scale deceptive information process.

If the ruler of the Egyptian regime has forgotten his commitment before the Palestine National Council in the Rabat summit resolution that considered the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, we have not forgotten. [applause]

The one who is committed to this resolution does not impose himself as a trustee and substitute for the PLO, negotiating on its behalf and despite its will on the rights of the Palestinian people. Whoever adheres to this resolution does not hold unilateral negotiations on the fate of the Palestinian people. If the head of the Egyptian regime has forgotten his commitment before the PNC that there will be no relinquishment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as defined by the Palestinian people's representatives--I refer here to his words before the PNC--the Arab masses have not forgotten. Anyone committed to this should neither play havoc with these rights nor should he interpret them as a self-rule under the control of the occupation forces. Everybody is aware that the self-rule is a Zionist demand adhered to by the Zionist diehards. They emphasize self-rule in all their statements because they see it--as I said a short while ago--as an organization for the Israeli house that maintains their racist nature.

Peace in the area is closely linked to the rights of the Palestinian people. Commitment to these rights, foremost of which are the right to return and self-determination and the sincere work for these, represents the gauge of sincerity of work for the sake of peace. Far from this, the talks on peace remain meaningless and the state of war and explosion continues to exist.

It has become obvious that the course of capitulation pursued by the Egyptian regime has further intensified the enemy's intransigence. The successive concessions will lead only to capitulation. We hear every day about new Israeli measures to entrench its occupation of the Palestinian land and to set up more settlements there. We also hear of Israel's persistence in considering that these lands are part of Israel and of their persistence in taking over all Jerusalem. What kind of alleged peace is this about which the parties of Camp David talk? This alleged peace does not contain the components of the real peace based on justice. This is an attempt to impose surrender on the Arab nation. However, our nation, which has never surrendered throughout history, refuses to surrender now and refuses to surrender in the future.

Our reply to the course of defeatism and capitulation was steadfastness and intensified moves consolidating steadfastness. After the summits of the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation in Tripoli, Algiers and Damascus; after the great meaning that has been manifested by this front on the struggle and pan-Arab levels by its resolutions and the positions of its forces; and after the Arab popular conference, the historic meeting between Syria and Iraq took place. [applause] This led to the Joint National Action Charter, which constitutes a tremendous achievement within the context of confronting the enemy's schemes, particularly since this meeting was not taken into account by the enemies and was beyond their expectations. We in Syria and Iraq continue the serious steps to translate this charter into a unionist action supporting the Arab nation's steadfastness and confrontation. It does without saying that this will first and foremost benefit the first cause--the Palestinian cause. Naturally, this meeting needs your support and your care. You should also give greater effort. [applause] The meeting is yours. It belongs to all the Arab nation. It does not belong to individuals, commands or specific groups. We and our brothers in Iraq view it from this perspective. You should also view it the same way.

Then came the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad to affirm the Arab nation's rejection of the line of surrender and its adherence to the line of steadfastness and Arab solidarity aimed at resisting the Zionist aggression. The conference reiterated that the cause of Palestine is a fateful Arab cause and is the crux of the struggle with the Zionist enemy. The conference affirmed that the Arab people and the Arab states are concerned with this cause and committed to fight for it and to offer every material and moral help in backing that cause. The conference also affirmed that the struggle to restore the Arab rights in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories is a pan-Arab responsibility and that the Arabs must participate in this struggle, each according to his position and to his economic, political and military capabilities. The conference decided that all the Arab states must offer all kinds of support, facilities and aid, through the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, in order to liberate the territories and restore the national rights of the Palestinian people--including their right to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their own soil. I have mentioned this part of the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference because of its clear and obvious affirmation of the Arab nation's conviction that the Palestinian cause is the crux of the struggle between us and Zionism and because of the responsibilities placed upon all of us, including our Palestinian Arab people.

I must say that first and foremost among your duties is to work by all means to promote and strengthen the national unity of the Palestinians. This national unity is one of the most important conditions to escalate the struggle and to promote it in the interest of the cause. Peoples who fought for their causes made their national unity their way to victory.

The Palestinian cause is a pan-Arab responsibility, and the national Palestinian unity is a pan-Arab demand. When national unity is promoted, the struggle for the cause and the Palestinian revolution will be more effective on the level of the resistance and stronger on the international level..

Palestinian national unity has a special pan-Arab character. Therefore, this unity must promote and strengthen the pan-Arab allegiance. The pan-Arab roots of the Palestinian people are the source of their strength and the mainstay of their revolution.

As I have said, we are waging a fateful struggle, which might be long or short, according to what we can prepare for it as to the means of strength. Foremost among these means is the reaffirmation of the great truth, the truth of Arab unity and its live realization through the continuous struggle, despite all setbacks and difficulties. No matter how great the difficulties and the times, and no matter how great the causes and goals in our Arab nation, we must always remember that Arab unity is the cause of all causes and the goal of all goals.

Predicaments of the national appeal to the noblest feelings of its people, awaken their latent capabilities and create in them a great momentum towards their cause. The Palestinian cause is an Arab predicament. This cause must appeal to our noblest feelings and awaken our latent capabilities in order to move towards our greatest and most urgent cause, the cause of our Arab unity.

Again I would like to address our brothers in the occupied territories on behalf of our people in Syria. I assure them that we will keep our covenant with them and we will continue our struggle. We will not back down or yield until the full rights of the Palestinian people are restored. We are on the side of our people and kinfolk in the occupied territories. We strengthen their steadfastness in facing the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy, which is aimed at the entire Arab nation.

Brothers, members of the council, I did not want to take a long time addressing you, and I preferred to be brief. I preferred to have my speech written. Again I greet you and assure you that the sons of Syria, who have always been true to their cause, the cause of Palestine, will always be true. Nobody will be able to prevent them from continuing to shoulder this trust, no matter what the sacrifices and efforts.

PLO's 'Arafat Speaks

JN151813Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1613 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the opening of the 14th session of the Palestine National Council in Damascus on 15 January--live]

[Text] [Words indistinct, drowned by applause] Saladin marched from this land and we will march together preceded by the heroic Syrian Army [applause] to liberate [words indistinct] who raise high the head of the Arab nation.

We will pray there with one flag raised over Jerusalem--the flag of the Arab nation. It is not a coincidence that the flag of our Arab nation is the flag of the Palestinian revolution [applause].

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN DAMASCUS UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN160638Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Damascus last night under the chairmanship of brother leader Abu 'Ammar. Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum attended. During the meeting, the Executive Committee studied the reports submitted to the Palestine National Council on the activities and achievements of the PLO Executive Committee in the period between the convocation of the two sessions of the council. The Executive Committee also discussed the topics on the agenda of the Palestine National Council.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also held a meeting yesterday attended by the brother members of the Fatah Central Committee participating in the Palestine National Council's session. PLO representatives abroad and several military and civilian cadres of the revolution attended.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST SITUATION

NC141514Y Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 12 Jan 79 p 9 NC

[First installment of CUMHURIYET correspondent Mehmet Emin Bozarslan interview with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut--date not given]

[Text] Question: Can you tell us about the situation in the Middle East in the aftermath of the "Camp David agreement" between As-Sadat and Begin?

Answer: Undoubtedly, we, as the Palestinian Revolution, see this agreement--which was signed under the supervision of the United States--as being nothing but harmful to the interests of the Palestinian people, the Arab nation and the Egyptian people. To understand my words and my reference to the Egyptian people's interests it is sufficient to look at Article VI of this agreement. When one takes a look at this article one will see that this agreement is an "agreement of surrender." By signing this agreement, President as-Sadat has given Israel the right to conduct Egypt's policies and its relations with the Arab nation; he has also given higher priority to Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Such concessions can be made only in the event of defeat; otherwise, neither can such concessions be made nor can such things be written down.

As for Palestine, this agreement is a new blow dealt against the Palestinian people by those who attended the Camp David conference. Behind what they call "autonomous administration" lies the intention to force our people to accept subservience to Israel. What they call "autonomous administration" is even worse than the autonomy granted to Bantustans in South Africa. For this and other reasons we believe that what has been accomplished is only a bilateral agreement. The objective of the agreement is to bring this Arab region under the American umbrella, to place it under the American yoke and to impose American-Israeli conditions on the Arab nation. The Arab nation completely rejects this.

What followed this agreement--that is, the meeting of the "Steadfastness Front" in Damascus, consequent Syrian-Iraqi talks, the Arab summit conference in Baghdad, the Syrian-Iraqi-Palestinian talks and other major developments in the Arab region as well as in the other parts of the Middle East--shows that what happened at Camp David is not true peace; what happened is a "phony peace." What happened at Camp David is identical to the event that took place during the visit paid by Chamberlain and Daladier to Munich in 1939 [date as published]. They too thought that theirs was a "visit of peace." It was found out later that it was a "visit of war"--a war that consumed the whole world.

I am saying that Camp David is a path that can only lead to further tensions and war not only in the Arab region but in the whole of the Middle East.

Question: What is the attitude of the Palestinian revolution--and its position in the region--under these new conditions?

Answer: Let me first say this: As you know, our people living on occupied territories rejected the Camp David results and they have declared their stance clearly. Moreover, they have declared their loyalty to their leadership--that is, the leadership represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people--and the Palestinian revolution, which is their own revolution. The stance adopted by the masses of people and our revolutionaries in occupied territories as well as outside those territories has been identical.

The latest success achieved at the United Nations, the resolutions proposed by the friendly community composed of nonaligned nations, African countries, Islamic countries and socialist countries...[sentence as published] The resolution on Palestine was passed by 103 votes with only 3 against. Those three votes were by Israel, the United States and Nicaragua. The significance of this resolution is that it was passed immediately after the Camp David agreement.

Second Installment

NC141521Y Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 13 Jan 79 p 7 NC

[Second installment of CUMHURIYET correspondent Emin Bozarslan interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut--date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: How do you evaluate the situation in southern Lebanon now that a strip controlled by Lebanese rightist forces--under the supervision of Israel--has been formed on the Israeli-Lebanese border? Has the formation of this strip affected the link between the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian citizens living under Israeli occupation?

Answer: On the contrary, those links were further developed and strengthened. Our relations with the Lebanese people and the Lebanese national movement are also very good. This is because we are in the same trench against the aggression of Zionism, imperialism and colonialism and their lackeys in the region. For instance, when I was in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese there fought with us heroically, manfully and honorably. We are proud of our special relationship with the Lebanese national movement as well as all national forces in Lebanon.

Question: As far as we can see, the PLO supports the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement. Do you think this rapprochement can achieve success?

Answer: For one thing, we consider ourselves a natural extension of the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement, although we are not a party to this rapprochement. This is a matter of unity between two states; it is a matter of unity of one party. Even so, we see ourselves, as the Palestinian revolution, as the natural extension of the rapprochement between Syria and Iraq. I believe without any reservations that in the face of challenges against the Arab nation this rapprochement will continue, develop and progress.

Question: There was a rapprochement between the Palestinian revolution and the Jordanian monarchy after the "Steadfastness Front" summit conference in Damascus. How far has this rapprochement gone and what results do you expect?

Answer: Let me first tell you that this rapprochement was realized following a decision taken at the Baghdad summit. There was also a meeting between me and King Husayn. At one of the sessions during the Baghdad summit we agreed to resume the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog on the basis of the revolutions passed at the Baghdad and Rabat summits. Later, a high-level Palestinian delegation went to Amman and had successful talks there. I expect that this dialog will continue and take its natural course. I am very optimistic that these talks will produce some positive results which will be in the interests of the Palestinian people and which will serve the advancement and strengthening of the Palestinian revolution.

Question: For instance, is it possible that King Husayn will permit the revolution to go on inside Jordanian territory as in the pre-1970 period?

Answer: That is an issue which may be subject to debate. This is envisaged by the Rabat and Baghdad summits. For this reason this issue is subject to the dialog between us and the Jordanians.

Question: As far as we can see, As-Sadat, Begin and Carter are insistent on setting up an autonomous administration in the West Bank and the Gaza regions. If such an autonomous administration is established what will be the practical response of the Palestinian revolution?

Answer: Let me make it clear that this will be a new form of enslavement for the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people have rejected this reasoning and their stance from now on toward such a crime will be to reject it and to resist it with all possible means. This resistance is a right granted to us by all celestial religions, all international laws and the UN Charter in particular.

Question: One last question, if you permit: What is the state of relations between the PLO and Turkey?

Answer: To tell the truth, our Ankara office should have been opened by now according to resolutions passed by the Islamic summit and the Islamic countries foreign ministers' conference.

We are waiting for the decision of the Turkish Government to help us open this office. I cannot say anything about the existence of strong ties between us. However, we must remember something that has become part of history and that causes us pride:

When Western imperialism and world Zionism offered a bribe to Sultan Abdulhamit for a Jewish homeland in Palestine he turned them down and rejected this cheap deal. Later, they managed to seize Palestine from Balfour and Britain, which betrayed the agreed principles of the League of Nations. The League of Nations had given Britain a mandate for our country. It was seen that the mandate regime has no value; under this regime Britain sold our country to world Zionism.

We have friendly relations with the people of Turkey and we are proud of these relations. There are certain warriors there, though it is true that their numbers are small. They fought with the Palestinian revolution and they fell martyr on the side of the Palestinian revolution. We are proud of them.

DPFLP ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON MA'ALOT OPERATION

JN131645Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Occupied Palestine--The DPFLP has issued its third communique on Operation Houari Boumediene. The communique says: After a group of the forces operating inside the occupied areas stormed Ma'alot settlement at 0630 today, seized control of a government building used as a resthouse for the enemy officers and their families, took 220 hostages, and requested the release of 10 of our struggling prisoners from enemy prisons, large forces of the Israeli Army and units of the border guard attacked the building, despite the repeated warnings made by the group that the enemy command was fully responsible for the lives of the hostages.

Following the treacherous attack by the enemy forces, a fierce battle ensued in which various arms were used. This led to the killing or wounding of a large number of the Israeli hostages and to the martyrdom of three members of the hero fighters of the group. Meanwhile, the rest of the members of the group were able to break through the Israeli siege and to withdraw to their bases.

Large forces of the Israeli Army and the border guard are still combing the area on a wide scale, looking for the rest of the members of the group.

The communique affirmed that this heroic, daring operation carried out by the DPFLP forces operating inside the occupied areas in commemoration of the death of the immortal leader struggler Houari Boumediene comes to reaffirm the depth of the struggle cohesion linking our Palestinian people and their revolution with the fraternal Algerian people and their valiant revolution.

Denies Fedayeen Involvement

JN131824Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 13 January--A spokesman for the command of the forces operating inside the occupied homeland and belonging to the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP] has denied the Israeli enemy's allegations that the Israeli forces earlier discovered alleged infiltration from the Lebanese borders of the group led by 1st Lt Muhammad 'Ali, who attacked a government building used as a resthouse for Israeli Army officers in Ma'alot at dawn today.

The spokesman affirmed that the group that performed the struggler Houari Boumediene Operation belongs to the DPFLP forces operating inside the occupied territory. The group carried out this operation from their base inside the occupied homeland.

The spokesman added that the lie of infiltration from Lebanon is not and has never been anything but a false justification in order to find pretexts to cover up the policy of repeated aggression against the Lebanese territories in reprisal for the heroic operations carried out by the Palestinian revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland.

PLO LEADER VIEWS PEACE TREATY, CHANCES OF JORDAN DIALOG

LD121049Y London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8-14 Jan 79 pp 10, 11 LD

[Huda al-Murr interview with PLO Executive Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] You said that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is bound to materialize and that it will have a devastating effect on Lebanon.

[Answer] I believe that the so-called peace treaty will be signed between Egypt and Israel unless a miracle happens and prevents the signing. Despite all the humiliation Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has received at the hands of Israel he is still persisting in his error of striving for alleged peace. What do we see if we look closely at the treaty? Egypt has to open its doors to the enemy and support him against forces hostile to him (the Arab countries). For example, if Israel should launch an attack on Syria or on southern Lebanon, the Egyptian Army, according to Begin's imagination, would have to help it. This means that Egypt is breaking finally with the Arab homeland and Israel is becoming Egypt's ally, with both directly linked to the United States. The best evidence that what I say is true is the Egyptian defense minister's statement a few weeks ago that "the Egyptian Army must be ready to face the Soviets and the communists in the area."

[Question] You say that we are about to see a change in the Arab political map. How can this be prevented?

[Answer] The Arab world and the nationalist forces must launch an offensive in order to thwart the treaty and to pull down the temple on everybody's head, including As-Sadat of Egypt. The adoption of a defensive posture and a middle of-the-road stand between the Americans and the Soviets will get us nowhere. The decision must be based on attack and not on defense. We must also boycott Egypt politically and economically and exercise all kinds of resistance in order to thwart the treaty and eliminate the perpetrator of this betrayal. This is because the treaty means the beginning of a new colonialism.

[Question] Do you believe that the Syrian-Iraqi Joint Action Charter was the first step toward countering As-Sadat's treaty?

[Answer] The Joint Action Charter was probably the most prominent historical event this year, especially if the capabilities of Syrian-Iraqi unity are utilized in confronting the Zionist enemy. But for this union to become truly historic and national the Palestinian revolution must be part of it. When we speak about unity we mean mobilizing all capabilities against the Zionist enemy and forgetting all past differences.

Therefore, we believe that cohesion between the revolution and this unity is not difficult or beyond reach. I would consider it the duty of Iraq and Syria to include the steadfastness and confrontation countries in their front because from the beginning these countries said no to As-Sadat and are qualified to take part in the offensive to which I referred against the peace treaty and its originator. Perhaps some people would consider that linking these two countries [Syria and Iraq] with the Palestinian revolution and other steadfastness states should form an axis dividing the Arab nation. This is not true. Our demand is to lump together all the forces that support a liberation war.

[Question] Has the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog been confined to questions of politics and information only?

[Answer] What the dialog has dealt with is unimportant. What is important is what it achieves. The dialog cannot yield much during the first session. Let us give it a second chance and then we can give our opinion of it.

[Question] It is understood that the Jordanian borders are the most suitable for armed struggle against Israel. Have you discussed military matters [with Jordan] ?

[Answer] It is premature to answer this question.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] I do not think the Jordanian regime would allow the establishment of [Palestinian] political activity let alone military activity.

[Question] Do we understand from this that the chances of success in the dialog are small?

[Answer] I hope I am wrong.

KUWAIT

BOYCOTT IMPOSED ON COMPANIES DEALING WITH ISRAEL

LD141720Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 79 ID

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jan, 79--The Office for the Boycott of Israel in Kuwait has taken decisions prohibiting dealings with seven foreign companies that deal with Israel. Three of the companies are English, three are American, one is Japanese and one is from Hong Kong. [figures as received]

On the other hand, the office has taken a decision lifting the prohibition of dealings with a U.S. company together with its local and international subsidiaries, and with companies linked to them.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER SAYS NO INCREASE IN OIL PRODUCTION TO HELP WEST

NC141048Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0922 GMT 14 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 14 January--Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thardi has stated that Qatar cannot increase its oil production to help the West cover the shortage resulting from declining Iranian oil supplies because the Qatari oil industry is technically working at full capacity.

In a statement to the Qatari English-language weekly newspaper GULF TIMES, the oil minister said that Qatar's average daily oil production last year was 485,000 barrels and, to a great extent, this is equivalent to the 1977 average production. He said that Qatar cannot cover the shortage in the Iranian oil supplies, "but we will do what we can."

His excellency denied that Qatar is thinking of increasing the price of light oil above the percentage decided by OPEC. He added that there is a demand for light oil in the market, but we do not contemplate taking this opportunity to increase the prices.

His excellency pointed out that it was the OPEC conference in Abu Dhabi last month which decided on the marginal difference in the prices of light oil and the other kinds of oil produced in the gulf. These differences range between 15 and 20 cents per barrel. He added that Qatar has applied this formula and the price of oil produced by the Dukhan oilfields during the first quarter of this year became \$14.03 per barrel, whereas the price of the oil produced by the Halul oilfields became \$13.77 per barrel.

The finance and oil minister said that Qatar's oil revenues would increase 10 percent this year, but that this increase would not cover the losses resulting from the decline in the value of the dollar.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thardi pointed out that Qatar has suffered from inflation because the prices of oil were frozen during the past 2 years. However, he said, the change in the prices will help in dealing with this situation.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE, DEFENSE MINISTER ATTEND DISPLAY BY F-15'S

ID151310Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 79 ID

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Jan, SNA--Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, today attended a show performed by a squadron of U.S. F-15's now visiting the kingdom. The show was also attended by a number of princes led by his royal highness, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation.

The visit of the squadron of U.S. F-15's is part of the cooperation between the U.S. Air Force and the Saudi Air Force, which is now examining this type of plane. The kingdom has purchased a certain number of F-15's.

CROWN PRINCE GIVES RIYADH BANQUET FOR IDI AMIN

ID151958Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 15 Jan 79 ID

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Jan 79, SNA--His royal highness, Prince Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, this evening held a dinner banquet at the Ma'dhar royal offices in honor of President Idi Amin of Uganda and his accompanying delegation.

The banquet was attended by a number of princes led by his royal highness, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; and by ministers, officials of the royal cabinet and high-ranking civilian and military officials.

Cooperation Talks Held

ID152128Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 79 ID

[Text] Saudi-Ugandan talks began this evening at An-Nasiriyah Guest Palace.

The Saudi delegation was led by his royal highness, Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister. The Ugandan side was led by his excellency, President Idi Amin.

On the Saudi side the talks were attended by his royal highness, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; his royal highness, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Dr Rashad Far'awn, King Khalid's personal adviser; Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; and Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity.

On the Ugandan side the talks were attended by Lt Col Husayn Marijan, minister of aviation and communications; Jumba Masagazi, minister of finance, planning and economic development; Col Bashir Juma, permanent secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Yunis Kinj), the personal adviser of the president of Uganda [name and title as heard] and (Musa Abaja), Ugandan ambassador to the Kingdom.

[Riyadh SNA in Arabic at 2020 GMT on 15 January in its report on the talks adds: "The talks between the two sides ended at 2300. SNA has learned that cooperation between the Kingdom and Uganda in particular and Arab-African cooperation in general were reviewed at these talks."]

Amin To Meet King Khalid

ID161020Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jan 79 ID

[Summary] Riyadh, 16 January--At 1000 today, President Idi Amin left Riyadh for the encampment of King Khalid outside the city. He was seen off at the airport by Prince Salman and others. He was accompanied by the king's private adviser, Rashad Fir'awn.

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN JIDDA 13 JANUARY

ID131110Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 13 Jan 79 ID

[Text] Jidda--Abdurahman Jama Barre, Somalia's foreign minister, arrived in Jidda this morning from Karachi on a visit to the Kingdom which will last a few days. At the airport he was welcomed by Salim Sunbul, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Somali ambassador to the Kingdom.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

ID152132Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2019 GMT 15 Jan 79 ID

[Text] Jidda--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj arrived in Jidda this evening from Khartoum. At the airport he was met by the Yemeni ambassador to the kingdom, by a representative of the royal protocol and by members of the Yemeni Embassy staff.

MILITARY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR LONDON TALKS

ID142050Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jan 79 ID

[Text] Gen Uthman al-Hamid, chief of the General Staff, who is heading a military delegation, left Riyadh today for London on an official visit to Britain. The visit will last 5 days and is at the invitation of Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Cameron, chief of staff of the British Army.

General-Hamid will have talks during this visit with officials in Britain on the consolidation of bilateral military cooperation in all fields. General-Hamid will also visit the British Ministry of Defense and military schools and establishments in Britain.

[Riyadh SNA in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 14 January notes that "Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Arabia Gen Uthman al-Hamid arrived in London this evening on a 5-day visit to Britain. He was welcomed at Heathrow Airport by Sir Neil Cameron, the British Army chief of staff, with whom the Saudi chief of staff will hold talks on bolstering military cooperation."]

UAE

ABU DHABI OFFICIAL DENIES OIL PRODUCTION INCREASE

JN151420 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 January--An official source in the Abu Dhabi Department of Industry and Petroleum has denied that Abu Dhabi has increased its oil production to make up for the shortage the Western markets are suffering from as a result of the suspension of Iran's oil exports.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-WAHDAH today, the source said that Abu Dhabi oil production will maintain last year's average. He added that the oil production policy in Abu Dhabi is still being defined by the position declared by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources.

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ARABIAN PENINSULA

At the end of the OPEC conference last month, Dr al-'Utaybah pointed out that the UAE would not increase its oil production during 1979, and that any change in this position would be defined in light of the considerations such a change might dictate. Dr al-'Utaybah added that an increase in production is not likely during this stage.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION DISCUSSED WITH KUWAIT

JN141347Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1255 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 January--Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi today met with a visiting Kuwaiti financial delegation. The delegation is made up of 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan, director of the Budget Department, and Barrak Hamid al-Marzug, director of the Financial Department of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance.

The visiting delegation briefed As-Suwaydi on the talks with various UAE officials on coordination and cooperation in the fields of financial and administrative organization, budgets, governmental accounts as well as on exchanging experts in these fields.

YEMEN--PDRY

14 OCTOBER ASSAILS U.S. MOVES IN ARAB GULF REGION

LD151752Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] In today's issue, 14 OCTOBER said that the transfer of a squadron of U.S. F-15's to Saudi Arabia and the movement of U.S. espionage organs to Oman is a new step in the counter-strategic measures aimed at obstructing the march of the national social struggle in the area.

In today's editorial, the paper said that this is a new attempt by Washington to upset the stability and peace of the peoples in the Arab Peninsula, the Gulf and Yemen. Washington wants to exert pressure to create more tension to compensate for the losses suffered by U.S. policy in more than one country.

The newspaper said that Washington's role in our area now revolves around [words indistinct] peace and stability and the progress of peoples [words indistinct] to be able to achieve through this the biggest possible gains. This is because Washington realizes that exposing the peace of the region to threats means exposing its strategic and economic interests to dangers. For this reason, the muscle flexing reflected in the movement of the U.S. fighter squadron and U.S. Navy toward the region are manifestations of its fear of the inevitable end of the peoples' enemies.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER WANTS USSR ROLE 'EQUAL TO U.S.' IN MIDEAST

LD151453Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 10 Jan 79 p 5 LD

['Abdallah al-Qaq interview with YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj in Kuwait--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] How would you evaluate the situation between the two parts of Yemen?

Minister al-Asnaj replied: It is unfortunate that relations between the two parts of Yemen have reached the lowest point possible because of the PDRY's continued policy of exporting trouble and sponsoring saboteurs operating against the YAR in particular and its neighbors in general.

While we are trying to devote ourselves entirely to implementing the economic and social development program, using all the aid we receive from our brothers in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE, for this purpose, we are at the same time trying to thwart sabotage operations. We are anxious to do so without resorting to provocations or exporting sabotage to the southern part. Once the rulers of the southern part stop resorting to the policy of interfering in other people's affairs and exporting troubles to the northern part and to their neighbors in the area, the prosperity and stability we desire for the people of both parts of Yemen will be achieved.

[Question] What is the present situation regarding the Bab El Mandeb Strait?

[Answer] The YAR, having a long coastal strip overlooking the Red Sea, was the first Arab state to call on all the sisterly Arab countries to study the position of Bab El Mandeb and send delegations to visit the Yemeni positions overlooking this vital waterway. We received military delegations from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Libya, which inspected the Yemeni positions there. The Arab countries were asked to provide basic aid to defend Bab El Mandeb in order to face any potential Israeli aggression because Yemen's national security is part of the regional security of the area. But, unfortunately, the brothers' response to the Yemeni call has been negative. The YAR still considers its national security as part of regional security and devotes all its resources to serving this end.

[Question] What is your opinion of the situation in Iran?

[Answer] There is no doubt that what is happening in Iran is very serious and is bound to have an impact on the area in one way or another. As the proverb says, if fire breaks out in your neighbor's house try to put it out before it spreads to yours. What is happening in Iran primarily concerns the Iranian people. There are indications, however, that the events in Iran are due not only to social conflict but also to international conflict over influence in the area. We, the Arabs, must be more effective and vigilant. We wish Iran stability and recovery from its predicament.

[Question] Has there been any change in the YAR's attitude toward the Camp David accord?

[Answer] The YAR was one of the Arab countries that issued an official statement saying that the Camp David agreement does not satisfy legitimate Arab rights and cannot be a sound basis for a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem, the crux of the conflict in the area. We have stressed that the PLO must participate fully in any future negotiations on the Palestine problem. We have also said that the Soviet Union must play a role equal to that of the United States in finding a solution to the Middle East problem in accordance with UN resolutions. Furthermore, the YAR, being aware of its national responsibility, clearly warned that this step would turn the Arab-Israeli conflict into an inter-Arab conflict that would isolate Egypt from the rest of the Arab countries and put it in the same trench with the Israeli enemy.

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SHAH EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN ASWAN 16 JANUARY

NC151850Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1839 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--The official spokesman for the president's office has stated that the shah of Iran, Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, is expected to arrive in the Arab Republic of Egypt tomorrow and his arrival will be a good opportunity for a meeting between the shah and President as-Sadat in the city of Aswan.

The official spokesman said that the Egyptian people have always maintained the closest ties with the friendly Iranian people. The Egyptian people will never forget the stands taken by the shah on the Egyptian people's side before, during and after the October war, as well as the shah's support for Egypt's political moves to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Middle East issue. The reception the Egyptian people will accord the shah will affirm their gratitude for these stands.

AL-AHRAM SAYS ATHERTON'S MISSION AIMED AT ISRAEL

NC161006Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0752 GMT 16 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 January--Citing U.S. State Department sources, AL-AHRAM says that roving ambassador for the Middle East Alfred Atherton is due in Cairo on Friday from Israel. He will be accompanied by State Department Legal Adviser Herbert Hansell.

The paper adds that Atherton has instructions from his government to convey to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin the U.S. disappointment at the Israeli Government's decision to build new settlements on the West Bank.

AL-AHRAM further says that the new U.S. Middle East initiative will be in two stages. The first will be to explain to both sides the legal interpretations related especially to Articles IV and VI of the draft treaty. Once that is accomplished, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will participate in the final stage of the negotiations over the treaty.

AL-AHRAM adds that Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal has sent a detailed report to Cairo on the new U.S. efforts connected with the Middle East negotiations.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL RETURNS FROM KHARTOUM

NC151936Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and a number of ministers returned to Cairo from Khartoum this evening. While in Khartoum, Prime Minister Dr Khalil and the ministers attended the meetings of the Higher Ministerial Committee on Integration Between Egypt and Sudan; which began the day before yesterday.

Khalil Grants Interview to SUNA

JN161053Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 16 January--Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil has declared that Egypt would not establish political relations with Israel until after the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. He explained that it would not be acceptable to Egypt to reach an agreement with Israel and then find itself incapable of achieving Palestinian autonomy.

This came in an exclusive interview Prime Minister Khalil granted to SUNA.

Khalil said that Egypt would not sit by and do nothing if Israel opened a side battle with Syria in Lebanon. He said Egypt's goal would be to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the entire area; otherwise, peace just between Egypt and Israel might tempt Israel to open a side battle with Syria in Lebanon.

Asked about what would happen if Israel insisted on its rejection of the Egyptian proposals, the prime minister said that he did not believe there is something called "Israel's insistence on its stand." An agreement was made at Camp David, and both sides were committed to implement it in letter and spirit.

Prime Minister Khalil affirmed that Egypt would not go back on any commitment it had made.

Prime Minister Khalil said that Egypt would not give precedence to its agreements with Israel and would not grant Israel any special status in its international dealings. Egypt insists on fulfilling its Arab pledges, charters and agreements with the Arab states.

Prime Minister Khalil explained that Egypt had not made any new demands, as the Israeli Government claims. However, Egypt insists that the negotiating process should not go on for years without reaching any results, particularly regarding the methods of elections, purviews, and responsibilities of the autonomous government in the West Bank and Gaza.

Prime Minister Khalil added: Unless this is linked to a timetable, Israel would not feel obliged as far as the duration of the negotiations are concerned. Therefore, the Egyptian side insists on a timetable on the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza that should coincide with the first Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, at which time the relations will be normalized and diplomatic relations established with Israel.

Prime Minister Khalil said that the ASU was not banned in Egypt but will from now on carry the name of the Consultative Council. It will have the power to view the programs of the new parties, their contacts with foreign parties and the financial assistance that might be offered them. He said that Article 5 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that the ASU [word indistinct] in order to say that the regime in Egypt is socialist and democratic. Within this framework, political parties will be established.

DEFENSE MINISTER RETURNS FROM INSPECTION OF WESTERN AREA

NC151933Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At noon today Defense and War Production Minister Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali returned to Cairo after a 3-day visit to the western military area, where he inspected the forces stationed in As-Sallum Plateau, Sidi Barrani and Matruh.

During the visit, he met with the commanders, officers and men in these sectors. He spoke to them about the dimensions of the current political situation and its possible outcome.

The defense minister said that providing the main branches of the armed forces with sophisticated arms and equipment from the West is part of the development of the armed forces to give them more flexibility and speed and raise their efficiency and performance.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that Egypt's responsibility and commitment is to maintain the strength and vigilance of its armed forces so that they can carry out their task and confront any aggressive action threatening the security and freedom of the homeland, at any time and from any source.

Discussing the political situation, Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt followed a principled position stemming from its pan-Arab and international commitments and insisted that peace should be comprehensive, lasting and just.

AS-SADAT CONTINUES TOUR OF NUBAH, RETURNS TO ASWAN

NC151407Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today toured villages in new Nubah to inspect the reclaimed agricultural land and acquaint himself with the agricultural projects in Aswan Governorate. He visited As-Salam Village. All the village inhabitants came out to welcome President as-Sadat and cheer him, saying, Long may he live.

President as-Sadat then visited the 250-feddans experimental farm in the village. The president heard an explanation by the farm's officials, who said that it was an experimental village to reclaim 8,000 feddans west of Abu Sunbul and that work on the construction of the village, which has 44 houses, began 4 months ago. The officials also explained the projects related to the construction of the High Dam lake shores, which cover three areas in the new valley: 100,000 feddans are being cultivated in the northern sector of the valley; 230,000 in the southern sector, and 1.48 million in the western sector, which is south of the new valley.

The president planted a date tree. He also visited one of the new houses in As-Salam Village.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1500 GMT on 15 January reports that "President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat returned to Aswan this afternoon from Abu Sunbul after concluding the tour he made yesterday and this morning to inspect the food security projects and the green revolution in the southern Nile valley." The report also notes that "the president was accompanied on this tour by Presidential Assistant Engineer Sayyid Mar'i; controller of food security projects, Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman; presidential office chief, Hasan Kamil; Minister of Reconstruction and New Societies Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi; Agrarian Reform Minister Engineer Tawfiq Kararah; Minister of State Muhammad al-'Uqayli, and Governor of Aswan Ahmad Taha Husayn."]

MINISTER SAYS IRAQ WILL SUPPLY OIL TO SYRIA

JN151209Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 Jan--Revolution Command Council member and Planning Minister 'Adnan Husayn has declared that the pumping of Iraqi oil to Syria will begin before the end of this month.

Husayn said that agreement has been reached on the revenues from each barrel of oil in a way that secures joint profits for the two countries. Agreement was also reached to supply fraternal Syria with its oil needs for local consumption. The supply will increase annually by agreement of the two fraternal countries, he said.

Husayn explained that according to this, Iraq has secured for Syria the major part of its oil needs for local consumption. He added that experts are now conducting tests on the pipeline, which did not transport oil for well over 3 years, to take the necessary measures and arrangements to operate it before the end of this month.

This came in a press interview Husayn granted to the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH and published today.

Speaking about oil questions, 'Adnan Husayn said that a program has been drawn up to unify the production and operation of the joint oil fields on the border and to determine how the oil will be used, whether for local consumption or export.

In his interview, 'Adnan Husayn spoke about several agreements recently concluded between Iraq and Syria in the various industrial, agricultural, tourist and oil fields.

These agreements, he said, include the establishment of a joint commission for planning, the unification of the goals of the 1981-85 5-year development plans in the two countries, the establishment of big, advanced, integrated projects between the two countries, the establishment of unified specialized commissions for all industrial sectors, the merging of the Iraqi and Syrian trade centers in the Arab and foreign countries, the achievement of self-sufficiency in food for the two countries, and the achievement of food security.

JOINT FRENCH-IRAQI STATEMENT ISSUED ON MA'RUF VISIT

For the Baghdad INA report of a joint French-Iraqi statement issued during the official visit of Vice President Taha Muryi ad-Din Ma'ruf to France, see the France section of the 15 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

PAPER URGES UNIFICATION OF PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN GROUPS

JN160959Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 January--An article in ATH-THAWRAH today calls on the Palestinian resistance groups meeting in Damascus within the Palestine National Council to forego their personal differences and achieve national unity for the sake of liberating the whole of Palestine.

The article says: Agreement on a unified political and organizational program binding on the resistance groups and basically committed to rejecting and fighting the political settlement line will be considered the first step toward placing the Palestinian revolution on the right course to liberation.

The article calls on the Palestine National Council to benefit from maximum from the current positive atmosphere and the new Arab situation resulting from the Joint Charter for National Action between Iraq and Syria and to consider this charter as a strong support for the Palestinian revolution.

Concluding, the article warns of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plan to involve certain Palestinian sides in the political settlement. The Palestinian revolution, the article adds, must always conduct itself as the fighting revolutionary vanguard representing the Arab people's will to fight for the restoration of Arab territory and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in all of Palestine.

VOL: LEAFLETS SAY IRAQ EXECUTES 30 COMMUNISTS

NC151408Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] A secret leaflet bearing the signature of the Communist Party has been distributed to some newspapers. The leaflet, which is typewritten, contains the Communist Party's view on the situation. The leaflet says that 30 communists were executed in Iraq by the Iraqi Army last Saturday. It also says that 150 communists have been arrested in Syria.

The leaflet says that an Iraqi security official visited Syria last week and held a meeting with the Syrian deputy chief of intelligence to discuss this subject. The leaflet cautions the communists about operations directed against them.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES LETTER FROM KUWAITI PRIME MINISTER

JN151423Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1238 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn received here this afternoon Kuwaiti Ambassador in Baghdad 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Sar'awi, who delivered a letter from Kuwaiti crown prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah dealing with bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali.

SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN131457Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan--Dzandar Takoyev, deputy minister of the Soviet Ministry of the Petroleum Industry, arrived here today to head his country's side to the meetings of the 12th session of the oil committee stemming from the joint Iraqi-Soviet Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation. The committee will hold its meetings here sometime later.

During its weeklong meetings the committee will discuss the process of work in the oil projects in Iraq that are being implemented with the framework of economic and technical cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

The Iraqi side to the meetings is headed by 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, chairman of the General Organization for Oil Projects.

KING HUSAYN LEAVES AMMAN FOR DAMASCUS

JN161001Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 16 Jan--His Majesty King Husayn this morning left Amman for Damascus for a short 1-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic during which he will have talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on Arab and international issues of interest to the two countries. They will also assess the Arab situation in light of the current situation.

His majesty is accompanied on this visit by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Staff Lt Gen Zayd ibn Shakir.

His majesty was seen off at Amman airport by Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, and the ministers.

The Syrian ambassador in Amman left on the same plane.

JORDAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ARAB INFORMATION MINISTERS CONFERENCE

JN141653Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The Jordanian Government has decided to participate in the Arab information ministers' conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad at the end of this month.

The Jordanian delegation to the weeklong conference will be headed by 'Adnan abu 'Awdah, minister of information, and will include Nasuh al-Majali, radio station director; Ahmad al-'Utum, director of the press and publication bureau; and the director of the office of the information minister.

LUTFI AL-KHULI REPORTEDLY BARRED FROM TRAVELING TO JORDAN

JN131333Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jan 79 p 14 JN

[Text] Amman--The committee for eulogizing the late Shafiq Irshaydat has received a cable from Lutfi al-Khuli stating that Egyptian authorities have barred him from traveling to Jordan to participate in the ceremony eulogizing Irshaydat. Al-Khuli was scheduled to deliver a eulogy at the ceremony.

SYRIAN MINISTERS ARRIVE IN AMMAN FOR ECONOMIC TALKS

JN131306Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian economic and foreign trade minister, and Dr George Huraniyah, Syrian minister of state for planning affairs, arrived in Amman today from Damascus to attend the meetings of the joint Syrian-Jordanian ministerial committee for discussing the investment programs of joint Syrian-Jordanian companies. The meetings are scheduled to begin today in Amman.

In a statement upon his arrival at the Ar-Ramtha border post, Dr al-'Madi praised the joint Syrian-Jordanian projects, which, he said, are aimed at achieving economic integration between the two fraternal countries. He said that the committee will discuss the finances of the joint Syrian-Jordanian company for land transport and the final draft of the unified law on investment, and the committee will prepare for the meetings of the higher committee.

Dr al-'Imadi said that he brought with him the greetings of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to His Majesty King Husayn and the greetings of Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi to Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The delegation was met at the Ar-Ramtha border post by the minister of trade and industry, the governor of Irbid, the director of the Irbid police, the acting district officer of Ar-Ramtha, representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the Syrian ambassador and the Syrian commercial attache in Amman.

Joint Committee Holds Meeting

JN132119Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Syrian ministerial committee for financing and supervising projects held a meeting tonight at the building of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The committee members discussed several issues forwarded from the higher Jordanian-Syrian committee and reviewed other issues on its agenda. The committee discussed the financial situation and investment plans for joint companies and projects, including the Jordanian-Syrian Transport Corporation, the Jordanian-Syrian Industry Company, the Joint Company for Maritime Navigation, the Joint Syrian-Jordanian Commercial Bank and the Free Zone Company.

The committee also studied a draft for unifying regulations to encourage investments. The committee then reviewed the progress of economic integration measures between the two countries. The committee will prepare a report on the projects that have already been established and those to be implemented soon.

The committee will resume its meetings tomorrow. The committee will then report to the higher joint Jordanian-Syrian committee.

14 Jan Meeting

JN142204 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The Jordanian-Syrian joint ministerial committee for financing and supervising projects today resumed its meetings at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman. The committee reviewed all the projects and the work of the joint committees formed by decisions from the higher joint committee. The committee reviewed the projects which were implemented and those which are to be implemented. The ministerial committee recommended the formation of a committee to supervise the work of the various committees. This committee will be able to submit a definite recommendation to the higher committee during the coming meeting.

Minutes were prepared for the committee meetings, including recommendations on the budget and spending for this year. The minutes will be signed during the final session, which will be held tomorrow, Monday.

FOREIGN ENVOY ACCUSED OF WASTING GOVERNMENT FUNDS

LD141210Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 14 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Amman, 14 Jan, KUNA--Informed sources here confirmed today news published by a Kuwaiti newspaper that a senior Jordanian official, Salah Abu Zayd, has been arrested for questioning in relation to financial offences. The sources said that the accusation was submitted against Abu Zayd, a former information minister, 2 months ago and that he was arrested 2 weeks ago, when courts began hearing the case. The newspaper AL-ANBA said early today that Abu Zayd, an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, has been accused of wasting 120,000 dinars on refurbishing the embassy in London when he was ambassador there. The paper added that Abu Zayd's solicitor said his client is innocent.

HEBRON'S SHAYKH AL-JA'BARI ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN131311Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jan 79 p 14 JN

[Text] Amman--His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-Ja'bari arrived in Amman yesterday morning from Hebron in the West Bank. He was welcomed at the King Husayn Bridge by a representative of the armed forces' commander in chief, a large number of personalities and the sons of the Hebron governorate.

Shaykh Al-Ja'bari is expected to enter the Al-Husayn medical center tomorrow for some medical checkups.

BADRAN, AL-FAHUM DISCUSS JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS

JN131557Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 13 Jan--Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, today reviewed the recent Middle East developments and the relations between Jordan and the PLO.

INA: JOINT FORCES REPULSE ISRAELI COMMANDO LANDING

JN160809Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 January--The joint forces foiled an attempt by a Zionist commando unit to land at dawn today near the Palestinian refugee camp of Ar-Rashidiyah, south of the Lebanese coastal town of Tyre.

The INA correspondent in the south says that the 200-strong commando unit tried to approach the shore under the cover of heavy artillery fire on the refugee camp from enemy gunboats as well as enemy gun emplacements in the border strip.

The correspondent says that enemy helicopters provided air cover for the gunboats and fired flares to facilitate the landing operation. Sources of the joint forces are quoted as saying that the enemy gunboats were forced to retreat to high seas under heavy fire from the shore. Initial reports indicate that several houses were destroyed as a result of the shelling on Ar-Rashidiyah and its vicinity. There were also some civilian casualties.

The joint Palestinian and Lebanese forces have been placed on general alert following the deterioration of the situation with the entry of more enemy tanks and vehicles into various parts of southern Lebanon yesterday.

Security reports today confirmed that enemy vehicles have taken up positions on Dibbin and Ash-Shariki hills in the eastern sector and that eight tanks entered the village of Yatir in the western sector, which was the base of the UN forces, and took over control of the village.

UNIFIL, ARMY COMMANDERS MEET, DISCUSS SOUTH

NC151410Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] UNIFIL Commander General Erskine visited Defense Minister and Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri at 1115 today. They then held a meeting that was attended by the army chief of staff and high-ranking officers in the command.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with the general situation in the south and to what extent the situation there can possibly be controlled within the context of the resources available to the UNIFIL in the border area. The discussions also dealt with the subject of increasing the army's participation in the tasks of the UNIFIL.

SARKIS, AL-HUSS, BUTRUS MEET 15 JANUARY

NC151402Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At 1215 President Ilyas Sarkis held a working meeting with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus to assess the outcome of the visit made by the prime minister to Damascus on Saturday. During that visit, he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and top-level Syrian officials. At 1310, Defense Minister and Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri joined the meeting.

Al-Huss Statement

NC151405Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At 1340, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss left the Presidential Palace and made the following statement:

Discussions at the working meeting dealt with two subjects: first, the outcome of my visit to Damascus; second, our attitude toward the UN Security Council meeting that will be devoted to a debate on the renewal of the UNFIL mandate in southern Lebanon. We assessed possible alternative government moves on the domestic level during the forthcoming stage to consolidate the security situation and continue the efforts to end the Lebanese crisis in a way that would restore stability to this country.

The prime minister added: Naturally, such steps must move along two parallel lines: first, dealing with the security situation, and second, dealing with the political aspects of the crisis. As for the issue of the south, particularly the UN Security Council debate, the attitude of the Lebanese Government will be frank in order to prove the clear Lebanese rights and adhere to anything that will preserve the supreme national interest. Lebanon will also insist on the steps necessary to save the south from the perils that face it. Therefore, Lebanon's position in the UN Security Council will be that the UNIFIL should be allowed to continue implementing the task assigned to it by completing its full deployment along the entire border area and by helping Lebanon impose its authority on all Lebanese territory in the south.

FORCES COMMAND MAY SUBMIT COMPLAINT TO SECURITY COUNCIL

NC152114Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command held its weekly meeting this evening at the command headquarters. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Lebanese Forces Commander Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, and was attended by all the members of the Command Council and the General Staff. The conferees studied the general situation in the country in the wake of the bestial shelling of densely populated and peaceful areas by the Syrian forces. Concerning this subject, the official spokesman for the Lebanese Forces Command made the following statement: The UN Security Council resolution passed on 6 October requested the disputing parties to cease firing. This request is merely a frank recognition by the highest UN body of the existence of the Lebanese forces and of their legitimate resistance function. Therefore, the Lebanese Forces Command is seriously studying the possibility of submitting a complaint to the Security Council against the recurring Syrian violations of the cease-fire resolution.

Furthermore, the command has emphasized the need to follow up the activation of some necessary services in the areas of Badaru-at-Tayyunah, Ayn ar-Rummanah-ash-Shiyah, and Furn ash-Shubbak-at-Tahwita--the Palace of Justice--particularly social, educational and economic services--in accordance with the recent measures the command took on 30 December 1978.

The spokesman affirmed that the confrontation strategy within the framework of activating vital services will not be jeopardized by the Syrian shelling, regardless of how indiscriminate and savage this shelling may be.

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES STATEMENT ON BOMB EXPLOSION

NC151251Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[15 January statement by Arab Deterrent Forces--ADF--Command]

[Text] On 14 January at 1630, a bomb exploded in the An-Nuwayri quarter in an office belonging to a splinter group of a minor organization in west Beirut. The explosion was followed by a clash in which light weapons were used between the two groups of the organization in the same quarter.

The ADF immediately intervened, sealed off this quarter and contained the incident. The armed men then escaped to the residential area.

In this incident, no heavy weapons were used, either by those who participated in the clash or by the ADF.

Meanwhile, armed men belonging to the militias renewed the sniping in At-Tayyunah, Badaru, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, As-Sayfi and Empire. They intended to cut off the roads, make them unsafe for the citizens and hinder the efforts being made to achieve further general relaxation in security. This compelled the ADF to deal with the sources of fire in As-Sayfi and Empire from 2030 until 2130. The ADF used weapons necessary to deal with the situation and silenced the sources of fire, after which calm was restored and continued up to this morning.

PARLIAMENTARY GROUPING ADOPTS DECISION ON SOUTH

NC151800Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Today, Speaker al-As'ad chaired a meeting of the Independent Parliamentary Grouping in which the complicated situation in the south was discussed. The background of this situation was also discussed, as well as Lebanon's position in the Security Council,

After the meeting, Speaker al-As'ad said: We discussed the various aspects of the political situation and assessed the situation in the wake of the parliament's recommendations on implementing the Bayt ad-Din resolutions. Our assessments dealt with the results of authorities on the parliamentary recommendations. The UNIFIL was also discussed. The parliamentary grouping adopted a decision that we hope the government will work on in the Security Council meeting, which will be held before 19 January.

Asked whether the Lebanese Government's position on UNIFIL differs from that of the parliamentary grouping's, Speaker al-As'ad replied: The impression we got from the government and the officials--particularly in the meeting of the parliamentary committees--was that their position does not differ from ours, and that in fact no decision has been made on this subject. We hope today's decision will lead the government to adopt our viewpoint.

The parliament's press bureau published the following decision adopted by the parliamentary grouping:

The Independent Parliamentary Grouping met on Monday, 15 January, to discuss the extension of the UNIFIL mandate in the south. After a debate, the grouping unanimously adopted the following decision:

Since it has been proven that the UNIFIL are incapable of carrying out the tasks assigned to them--whether this refers to the liberation of the territories or the imposition of the state authority in the south--the parliamentary grouping calls on the government to adopt a frank official position at the Security Council. This position should call on the United Nations to provide the UNIFIL with capabilities and powers that will turn them into a military strike force capable of carrying out the tasks assigned to them, in keeping with the aims specified in the UN Security Council resolutions and with the means of implementation indicated in these resolutions.

The parliamentary grouping document was signed by 56 deputies.

JOURNALISTS TALK TO ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL

NC151417Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Today, the secretary general of the Arab League started his contacts with Lebanese officials by visiting Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. The meeting started at 0900 and lasted 1 hour. During the meeting, views were exchanged on the Arab situation in general and the situation in southern Lebanon in particular.

After the meeting, the following dialog took place between the Arab League secretary general and Lebanese journalists:

Asked about the Arab League's role in helping solve the crisis in the south, the Arab League secretary general replied: As a matter of fact, discussions during my current visit are centering entirely on the subject of rehabilitation. As for the south and the security crisis, I am more of a listener here than one who is voicing opinions and views, because I need information from the Lebanese Government.

The secretary general was asked: In your capacity as the secretary general of the Arab League, don't you have the information on how the Arab League can play a role in solving the crisis in the south? He replied: The crisis in the south is an old subject, which we have warned about more than once. The basis of this crisis is that Israel is trying to impose its control on the south. All the resolutions issued by the Arab League Council and the Arab summits aimed, as a matter of fact, at not only achieving stability in the south but in all the Lebanese territories. Therefore, we hope that the current efforts by the president will lead to stability in the south and other Lebanese territories.

Asked whether a specific timetable had been set for implementing the Arab assistance to Lebanon--which was decided on at the Baghdad summit conference--the Arab League secretary general replied: This subject is being studied by the Lebanese Government, and it will submit proposals that will be submitted, in turn, to the Arab finance ministers when I invite them to meet.

Asked whether a delay in the signing of the agreement between Egypt and Israel will lead to the restoration of unity among the Arab states, the secretary general replied: To tell you the truth, I have no idea.

Asked whether he expects a relaxation or military explosions in the area, the secretary general replied: I can neither comment nor make predictions on these subjects.

Asked: What about your information? The secretary general replied: I have no information.

Asked whether it is possible to reveal the nature of his visit to Saudi Arabia, the secretary general replied: I am not going to Saudi Arabia, but to Kuwait. I will be going there tomorrow, God willing. The aim of the visit is to hold contacts concerning the development [of Lebanon] because the Arab Fund has a role in this subject, has prepared certain studies on this subject. I will discuss these studies with the Arab Fund officials.

Asked finally whether he has any specific political role in Lebanon in addition to his role in development and construction, the secretary general replied: I am merely here for an exchange of views.

KING HUSAYN ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS FOR TALKS WITH AL-ASAD

JN161125Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Damascus today at the head of an official delegation. He was met at the airport by his excellency, President Hafiz al-Asad.

Later, the president and the king proceeded to the guest palace, where they held a meeting attended by officials from the Jordanian and Syrian sides.

At 1300, President Hafiz al-Asad and his majesty, King Husayn, proceeded to the Presidential Palace, where they held a separate meeting.

ATH-THAWRAH: SHAH, U.S. PLANNING COUNTERREVOLUTION IN IRAN

JN161059Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0838 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 January--ATH-THAWRAH today comments on the situation in Iran. The paper says: True, the Bakhtiar government has obtained the approval of the Senate, as expected, and will also secure the approval of the Majlis today or tomorrow, but this does not mean that the situation has been resolved and that the way is clear for the new Iranian Government, which is still facing demonstrations and protest and is described as illegal.

The paper adds: Judging by the developments taking place inside and outside Iran, we believe that matters are not proceeding toward a relaxation and a solution but to an abyss. More massacres and sanguinary fighting are expected to abort the public upheaval.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: The shah has not yet left the country, although talk about his impending departure has been going on for about a month. The expression now used is not "leaving" but "departing" on a visit to Aswan and then Washington.

ATH-THAWRAH asserts that the formation of a Regency Council was just another deception. It is believed that the shah and Washington are planning a counterrevolution. This is obvious from the continuous departure of foreigners from Iran and the advice given to the nationals of Western countries to leave Iran by Thursday.

The paper asserts: All these things indicate that something will happen in Iran. It is likely that Carter's statement about the possibility of calling As-Sadat and Begin to a summit conference and the propaganda and political campaign on the problem of the talks between Egypt and Israel were intended to divert attention from the Iranian developments and clamp a blackout on the measures being taken against the public upheaval, which is still suffering from all kinds of sacrifices and massacres.

Concluding this comment, which is entitled "Prolonging the Current Situation in Iran Is Dangerous to the Upheaval," ATH-THAWRAH says Iran is drowning in a sea of chaos and paralysis and that there is great fear that the shah might exploit the people's sufferings and that the people might be tired of waiting too long.

IRAQI DEFENSE, FOREIGN MINISTERS HOLD TALKS IN DAMASCUS

JN151315Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi in the presence of Iraqi Ambassador in Damascus Walid Mahmud al-Khashari.

The meeting reviewed the stages covered by the fraternal discussions and meetings between both countries in implementation of the Charter of Joint National Action. The meeting also reviewed the situation in the area.

Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, the Iraqi defense minister; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, the foreign minister; Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, the Iraqi chief of staff; and a number of senior Iraqi Army officers arrived in Damascus this morning. The Iraqi delegation was met at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Deputy Commander in Chief of the Army and Armed Forces and Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talasi; Chief of Staff Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi; senior Army officers; and the Iraqi ambassador in Damascus.

The deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces, Gen Mustafa Talas, received in his office at noon today staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, the Iraqi defense minister, and Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, the chief of staff, in the presence of Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, the chief of staff of the Syrian Army.

Qahtan Lutfi 'Ali and Fu'ad ar-Rawi, ambassadors in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, also arrived in Damascus this morning to hold further talks with officials in the Foreign Ministry on coordinating and unifying work in the foreign ministries of both fraternal countries.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MEMBERS OF JOINT IRAQI-SYRIAN COMMITTEES

JN160644Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--His excellency, President Hafiz al-Asad, received at 2230 yesterday the members of the joint Syrian-Iraq committees. On the Iraqi side were Revolution Command Council member and Defense Minister Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah; Revolution Command Council member Tariq 'Aziz; Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi; Chief of General Staff Lt Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal; and Revolution Command Council member Sa'dun Shakir. The members of the joint committees from the Syrian side were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Deputy Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas; Interior Minister Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh; and Chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi. The meeting was attended by Iraqi Ambassador Walid al-Khashali.

The president heard the results of the meetings of the military and security committees, which met in Damascus. They also reviewed the preparatory work for the meeting of the Syrian-Iraqi Higher Political Committee. The president blessed the efforts of the members of the joint committees and expressed his appreciation of the work they have achieved.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY TO MEET 20 JAN TO DISCUSS STATE BUDGET

JN151424Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--It has been decided to call the People's Assembly to an extraordinary session effective Saturday, 20 January. Assembly Speaker Mahmud Hadid has sent out invitations to the assembly members to attend this session, which will hold its first meeting at 1800 Saturday.

The SANA correspondent has learned that during this extraordinary session, the People's Assembly will debate the 1979 general state budget and other topics on the agenda.

MOROCCO

GUINEAN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE ARRIVES IN MARRAKECH

LD152222Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Summary] Official talks between King Hassan II and President Sekou Toure of Guinea will begin this afternoon in Marrakech. President Sekou Toure arrived at Marrakech Menara Airport a short while ago, where he was welcomed by King Hassan II, the cabinet ministers and the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Rabat. President Sekou Toure was accorded an extremely popular welcome along the main streets of Marrakech.

Moroccan-Guinean Talks Begin

LD152224Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] The first round of private political talks between His Majesty King Hassan II and his great African guest, President Sekou Toure, began 1 hour ago.

The Guinean president arrived in Marrakech at noon today for an official visit to Morocco.

President Sekou Toure is accompanied by a delegation that includes Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui; Minister of Culture and Education Mamady Keita; Justice Minister Gen Lansana Diane; Minister of Foreign Affairs Fily Sissoko; Planning and Economic Cooperation Minister N'faly Sangare; Minister of Islamic Affairs (Fudi Suriba Camara); Minister of Foreign Commerce Saikou Barry; Guinean ambassador to Morocco Mouloukou Suleyman Toure; (Ali Bankura), head of protocol; the president's daughter, Aminata Toure; Mr (Kru) deputy of the People's Assembly; and others.

SUDAN

EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES BILATERAL COMMITTEE

NC131133Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Speech by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil on 13 January at opening session of Higher Ministerial Committee for Integration Between Egypt and Sudan held at Friendship Hall in Khartoum--live]

[Excerpts] His excellency dear brother Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, the vice president of the Democratic Republic of Sudan; dear brothers; God's peace and blessings be with you. When meeting in Khartoum today, it gives me pleasure to express to you on my behalf and in the name of my colleagues, members of the Egyptian side, my profound gratitude and appreciation to the brother colleagues, members of the Sudanese side, for their fruitful and creative efforts in holding this meeting. I also express to you our profound gratitude for the welcome we have been accorded since we arrived in fraternal Sudan.

The program of political action and economic integration between Egypt and Sudan will enter its fifth year in February 1979. This gives us an opportunity to ponder what actually has been accomplished. It also raises the question of what we must do in the coming period. Our aim behind this is to increase the integration between the two countries through booster projects in a manner which realizes the aim mentioned in the program declaration which was issued by Presidents Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Ja'far Muhammad Numayri in February 1974.

It might be our good fortune that providence has given us in this decisive stage of our history two great leaders who are shouldering the historic responsibility to remove all artificial barriers between this one people in the south and the north. Their penetrating minds and their correct evaluation of the international and regional changes are the primary impetus for making the integration between our two peoples a fait accompli supported by deeds. The events taking place around us have proved the farsightedness of the two leaders, their comprehensive thinking and the truth of what they predicted regarding our (country) and the various Arab, African and international circles.

In the Arab circle, the brave initiative of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat placed all parties concerned, great powers and the world public opinion before their historic responsibilities toward the issue of peace in the Middle East; it proved that the Arabs are advocates of peace based on justice. It also placed Israel before its real responsibilities toward the entire world. Events prove daily that the peace initiative is a historic action which has crossed the barriers of hatred which resulted from 30 years of wars and provided a genuine opportunity for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace for all peoples in the area--peace based on recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. It is a peace which would allow the establishment of an autonomy for the Palestinians which will be followed, God willing, by self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Egypt will not sign a separate conciliation [sulh], nor will it give Israel a privileged status nor let the agreement be a means preventing Egypt from honoring its Arab commitments or cooperating fruitfully with its fraternal Arab states.

President Ja'far Muhammad Mumayri adopted his brave stand. He congratulated his brother on his brave initiative. President Mumayri's view was based on a vigilant and careful study which the various responsible organs in fraternal Sudan carried out. President Mumayri's splendid initiative to consolidate the Arab ranks to face vestiges and complications which are not the doing of the Arab peoples indicates the [words indistinct] the sons of the Nile Valley and their farsightedness.

Our Egyptian-African steps in the field of integration are in themselves an African example for (closing) the gap which those who interfere in African affairs are exploiting. This gap is the creation of recurring disputes along the borders among the African states. It is a cause of pleasure to me that the serious studies which have been carried out regarding the future of the area of joint integration between our two countries have included all fields necessary for the success of this national action.

Brothers, what I explained to you is part of our view of the proposed measures to meet the demands of the masses of our people in the north and the south. I hope that they will find their way to implementation through your constructive efforts in order that the results of the integration may reflect on the well-being of our nation and on the maneuvers of foreign interference on the approaches of the Red Sea and around Sudan and Egypt. The two states will resist these maneuvers very firmly. Any aggression against either of the two countries will be considered an aggression on the other country as well. It must be immediately resisted with all firmness and strength.

At the same time, it is my duty to explain that this integration is for the welfare of the two peoples. It is an investment for the welfare of our Afro-Arab people who have been living on the banks of our eternal Nile for thousands of years.

EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE INTEGRATION COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS REPORTED

JN141138Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 14 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 14 (SUNA)--The High Joint Ministerial Committee for Integration Between Sudan and Egypt continued last night here its three-day meeting to review reports submitted by agriculture, irrigation and communication technical committees.

Eight technical committees have emanated from the ministerial one to cover the spheres of political and economic planning, industrial development and mining, agriculture and irrigation, transport and communications, education and scientific research, religious affairs, culture, information, youth and sport, health, work, social affairs and co-operation besides legal affairs.

They are assigned to formulate policies and prepare studies on joint projects.

The technical committees also hold bianual meetings alternately in Sudan and Egypt and submit their reports to the parent committee.

Following last night's meeting, the Egyptian irrigation minister and state minister for Sudan's affair in Egypt, Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi, said in a press statement that the committee had reviewed achieved at Jonglei canal project. [sentence as received] The project will provide four (?billion) cubic meters of water to be shared equally and jointly executed by Sudan and Egypt.

The committee has also sought the possibility of establishing a Nile basin authority which aims at comprising all countries concerned with the issue. The issue was entrusted to the ministers of irrigation and foreign affairs for further proceedings.

On transport and communications, the Egyptian minister said agreement was reached on promoting river transport besides continuing the process of the Khartoum-Cairo land-road.

He indicated that Egypt has offered to pave up to 50 kilometers south of Aswan and has invited tenders for this purpose. Tenders will also be invited for paving more 100 kilometers to link Halfa, northern Sudan, to Aswan.

The committee has also recommended the continuation of feasibility studies for the Aswan-Halfa railroad.

With regard to telecommunications, he indicated that Halfa station has actually been enhanced, and 24 more direct communication channels are expected to be inaugurated making a total of 28 directed channels between here and Cairo.

The committee will continue meeting this morning to review reports by industrial and mining, scientific research, culture and information, legal and religious affairs committees, besides raising the capital of the Sudanese-Egyptian company for agricultural integration.

Resolutions Issued

NC151412Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The Higher Ministerial Committee for Integration Between Egypt and Sudan concluded its activities at Friendship Hall in Khartoum today. The final joint statement, recommendations and resolutions were announced at the final session.

Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir opened the session. He welcomed Dr Mustafa Khalil and the Egyptian delegation. He expressed the noble fraternal sentiments which have always characterized the meetings of the joint higher ministerial committee between Egypt and Sudan. He further reviewed the main achievements of the integration projects between Egypt and Sudan.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil then spoke. He thanked the Sudanese officials and people for their good reception. He praised the efforts which were exerted to convene the ministerial committee. He stressed Egypt's adherence to the principles and aims contained in the program of political action and economic integration.

The resolutions adopted include one on giving the governor of Aswan and the governor of the Northern Directorate membership in the Higher Ministerial Committee. The committee noted with satisfaction and optimism the integration programs and projects which have been implemented, particularly in the fields of facilitating movement, labor and trade exchange. It also noted with satisfaction the implementation of the joint projects, such as the Jonglei canal project and educational, cultural, information, health and religious projects.

The ministerial committee reviewed developments in the Arab world. In this regard, the committee expressed its interest in following up the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations in which the United States is taking part. The committee insists that the settlement must be comprehensive and cover all aspects of the problem. The committee stressed the determination of the peoples of Egypt and Sudan to help the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa realize their legitimate aspirations.

The committee further reaffirmed that Egypt and Sudan earnestly want to consolidate and confirm their relations with the fraternal Islamic states. It further renews its determination to bolster means of communication and coordination between the organizations of the peoples in the two countries.

The committee hails the anticipated meeting of the Egyptian and Sudanese people's assemblies.

At the end of the session, the Higher Ministerial Committee sent a cable to Presidents Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Ja'far Numayri expressing its support for the struggling role played by the two presidents for the welfare of their peoples.

Further Report

JN151917Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 15 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 15, (SUNA)--The High Joint Ministerial Committee for Integration Between Sudan and Egypt concluded a three-day meeting here today and issued its closing statement.

The statement reviewed the resolutions of the committee's achievements in the sphere of integration, future strategies and means to consolidate the process of integrating. The ministerial committee, the statement said, has reviewed the situation in the Arab world and the Middle East and agreed upon the necessary vigilance to counter any foreign intervention which may take the advantage of the instability to push the area anew into the superpowers conflict.

"With regard to the developments in the Middle East and Egypt's efforts towards an over all settlement, the committee adheres to the principal of peace, taking into consideration that the Palestinian issue is the essence of the problem, and that no peace could be attained without the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian rights self-determination and the establishment of their own state. In this respect the committee expressed deep concern over the Egyptian-Israeli peace talk in which the United States is a full partner, confirmed abidance [as received] to an over all settlement and rejected partial and bilateral settlements" said the statement.

The statement added "the committee assured its deep faith on the principals and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the organization's commitment to the total liberation of the continent and to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The committee supports the people of Zimbabwe and Namibia in their struggle to attain their legitimate rights. The committee, while expressing anxiety over foreign intervention in the continent, reiterated necessity of vigilance and steadfastness in countering various forms of political and military foreign intervention in Africa." The statement said that the committee advocates peaceful settlements to African disputes beside the formulation of a unified strategy to consolidate the non-alignment movement.

"The committee looks with satisfaction to the current diplomatic [words indistinct] and other international and regional organizations and hopes for further co-ordination particularly in the forthcoming African and non-alignment meetings. The committee emphasized the special role of both countries in promoting Afro-Arab solidarity to achieve the objectives outlined by the first Afro-Arab conference held in Cairo March, 1977," added the statement.

"In the framework of efforts to consolidate relations between neighbouring states in the area the committee expressed deep concern over the efforts made to establish a permanent foundation for the Nile basin which is expected to comprise Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zaire, Kenya and Egypt. It further confirmed the keenness of both Egypt and Sudan to promote their relations with sister Moslim states through strengthening bilateral relations in accordance efforts of the Islamic conference" concluded the statement.

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI RECEIVES EGYPTIAN, SUDANESE DELEGATIONS

NC151640Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At noon today, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri received Dr Mustafa Khalil, prime minister and head of the Egyptian delegation to the Higher Ministerial Committee for Integration Between Egypt and Sudan, at the end of the committee meetings.

The meeting, which lasted about 1 hour, was attended by Rashid at-Tahir, Sudanese vice president and head of the Sudanese side to the committee's meetings.

President Numayri then met with the heads and members of both the Egyptian and Sudanese delegations.

Later, President Numayri made press statements in which he expressed happiness about this meeting and said: as a result of the committee meetings, bases have been established for following up what we initiated in 1974 with President Anwar as-Sadat.

President Numayri expressed optimism concerning the outcome of the committee meetings and said: The meetings show that what we are seeking and aspiring will achieve the objectives and hopes of the masses in Sudan and in fraternal Egypt.

He affirmed that the work which Egypt and Sudan are carrying out will form a solid foundation for unity not only between the two countries but also for the Arab nation, the Islamic world and the African Continent.

Answering a question about Sudan's attitude toward Egyptian efforts for a comprehensive settlement in the area, President Numayri affirmed that the efforts Egypt is making under President as-Sadat's leadership in the fields of development and peace in the Arab world will help make the Arab nation a solid united power which can achieve the victory it sought by military action for the past 30 years.

President Numayri stressed that the military solution was not sound, nor was it the only way to achieve the Arab nation's present aspirations. He said that the initiative made by President As-Sadat was the beginning of the sound way--the only way in these changing world circumstances.

About Sudan's role in working for the unity of the Arab ranks, President Numayri said: We are working for the unity of the Arab nation and for eliminating all Arab differences. We will not depart from this clear stand regardless of the campaign by misleading radio broadcasts or information media about Sudan's role in this respect.

On Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation to confront the dangers facing the African Continent, Numayri said: there is complete cooperation. We are working together as one hand in the same experiment, starting from the same base.

Asked about the expected meeting between him and Mengistu, chairman of Provisional Military Administrative Council in Ethiopia, President Numayri said: The OAU has formed a committee under the chairmanship of the Sierra Leone president to solve the conflict between Sudan and Ethiopia. He noted that his meeting with Mengistu is expected to take place next month.

GHALI MEETS CHAD, YAR FOREIGN MINISTERS IN KHARTOUM

NC151632Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT 15 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jan--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today met with Chadian Foreign Minister (Ali Ben Chadi), who is now on a visit to Khartoum.

Dr Ghali has told the MENA correspondent that Egypt's relations with Chad were reviewed. The latest Chadian domestic developments were also examined. Dr Ghali added that Egypt is closely following events in Chad in view of the close relationship which binds the two countries together.

Dr Ghali said that despite Egypt's preoccupation with the Middle East crisis, Egypt also has basic interests in Africa. These interests are geared to activating Arab-African cooperation as well as the work of the new institutions which were instituted in the wake of the first Arab-African summit conference. This summit conference was held in Cairo in March 1977.

Dr Ghali also met with YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, who is now on a visit to Sudan. The two men examined the means for consolidating the bilateral relations existing between Egypt and Yemen and for bolstering joint Arab action.

PROTEST MADE TO UN ABOUT TERRORIST ATTACK IN MA'ALOT

TA160622Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Israel has protested to the UN Security Council about the terrorist attack on Ma'alot. Ambassador Yehuda Blum said the attack, in which an Israeli woman was killed, shows that the UN peace-keeping force in south Lebanon is not fulfilling its task.

Two Arabs have been remanded in custody on charges of giving food and shelter to the three terrorists who attacked the convalescent home in Ma'alot last weekend. (Hana Yusuf Jiris), 67, and his son (Sami), 17, from a village in the Galilee, appeared before a magistrate in Acre. The police say the young man was watching his sheep when he encountered the three terrorists and took them home. The father cooked a meal for them and allowed them to stay overnight. Although both men knew the three were terrorists and that the army was looking for them, they did not inform the authorities, the police charged.

ISRAELI FORCE ATTACKS TERRORIST BASE ON LEBANESE TERRITORY

TA161007Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Text] An IDF unit landed this morning on the Lebanese shore south of Tyre and blew up a building which served as a terrorist base. Military sources report that the building was in Ra's Al 'Ayn, approximately 4 km south of Tyre. According to the same sources, the Israeli force reached the site by sea. The operation in Lebanon took place 3 days after the terrorist infiltration into Ma'alot.

BEGIN'S OFFICE TO COORDINATE ATHERTON TALKS

TA161045Y Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[By HA'ARETZ political correspondent]

[Excerpt] The prime minister's office, not the foreign minister's, will coordinate the negotiations with Alfred Atherton, who is due to arrive in Israel this evening.

The appointment of the director general of the prime minister's office to the negotiating team (which will also include Messrs Yitzhak Zamir, Me'ir Rosenne and Ruth Lapidot) indicates a trend toward assigning the direct responsibility for supervising the current stage of the negotiations to Begin.

Official sources claim that giving Begin direct supervision of the negotiating team was done in full coordination with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Morning Press Comments

TA160649Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpts] Here is the review of the morning press editorials. The arrival of Ambassador Atherton in Israel and the publication of the cost of living index are the two main issues.

HATZOFE says that in each stage of the negotiations on the peace treaty, negotiations which might be resumed perhaps even to the point of convening a summit meeting, the Israeli delegation must take pains to convince the region and the entire Western world that peace would be most effective if there is a strong Israel; both in terms of its borders, in its oil resources, in its economy and its sophisticated armament.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that the Israeli Cabinet must make its contribution to lift the obstacles [on the road to peace] to overcome hesitation and pressures and to show an understanding and flexibility with respect to definitions and minute formulations. The reality which will develop as a result of the agreement--the reality of peace--is more important than formulations. Any regression, whether by Israel or by Egypt, signifies a victory for the rejectionist front and for hostility and a defeat for the vital interests of the peoples. The rejectionist front, wherever it is, should be nipped in the bud.

SHE'ARIM thinks that signing the peace treaty with Egypt will now give us a lot less than it would have in the past. Perhaps shunning heavy-weight steps of signing a peace treaty or forsaking the negotiations will tip the scale toward making Israel decide to wait.

NASHA STRANA believes that today more than ever we must be fully aware of all the proposals, pieces of advice and promises which Atherton will make so that the peace treaty with Egypt does not turn into something we will regret forever.

VIATA NOASTRA says that both Egypt and Israel want to sign a peace treaty and understand that if the treaty is not signed in the next few days, they will be endangering everything that has been achieved so far. However, Egypt fears that it will be marked as the one who betrayed the Arab cause and that is why it is stiffening its insistence on the demands it presented--and which caused the delay in signing the treaty--even further. It is necessary to have political courage to close the vicious circle and to dare sign the peace treaty so as not to let the chance slip away by further delays and a long break.

MA'ARIV: ONLY SUMMIT COULD CONCLUDE PEACE TALKS

TA151032Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jan 79 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] The only way to conclude the negotiations for peace and sign the peace treaty will be another meeting between President Carter, Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. This is the evaluation which prevails in Jerusalem today. That is why President Carter's statement concerning the possibility of convening another Middle East summit meeting was considered a very practical proposal. Jerusalem now expects to hear further details from Washington.

The assumption in Jerusalem is that such a summit meeting, at a high level, may take place next month, whether in Washington, at Camp David or at one of the other more quiet places which will be completely cut off from the media and will allow the "big ones" to concentrate on making the last effort to sign a peace agreement.

Political observers estimate that beyond the argument over legalistic details and the formulation of articles there is a common interest in both Egypt and Israel that is in line with the basic interest of the United States with regard to the Middle East.

That is why it is assessed here that the arrival of the U.S. delegation headed by Ambassador Alfred Atherton was intended to pave the road toward a summit meeting.

Ambassador Atherton is to arrive in Israel tonight. He will begin his talks with the Israeli team tomorrow. Atherton's delegation will stay in Israel for a shorter period than had been planned and will leave for Cairo after a day or two. From there it will continue to Washington to report to the administration on the talks in the area on the next step, which will probably be a summit meeting with the participation of Carter, Begin and As-Sadat.

KNESSET CONCLUDES DEBATE ON MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS

TA151804Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Let us go back to the Knesset, where the voting on the government's proposal on ministerial changes is just concluding. Over to you, Razi Barqay.

[Barqay--live] The voting was over only a few minutes ago: 49 in favor, the coalition members, apart from the MAFDAL; 40 against, the whole opposition; and 9 abstainers, from the MAFDAL faction. The Knesset has approved the new appointments of cabinet ministers, not before Menahem Begin, the prime minister, in a short speech asked the MAFDAL not to abstain from the voting. [Begin recording]

[Begin] We, therefore, established a government in accordance with the ratio of 1 minister to 4 members of Knesset. At first we wanted a 1 to 5 ratio. That is true. This did not work and we agreed that it should be 1 to 4. And various parties joined the coalition. We worked together, I think that we founded a real partnership, we made every effort to maintain the coalition agreement which was signed between us--everyone knows this--within the cabinet.

There was a split in one of the coalition parties. Do we really have to deliver the judgment on the ratio due to this? And do we really have to say that since you have split, because a section did not want to support the government, but the section that remained does want to go on being a partner, so there has to be a complete rearrangement? If this is so, you must expel one of your members? I say, specifically and frankly, such a proposal was not to my liking, I could not accept it, I do not think that.... [Begin recording cut off in midsentence here] [end recording]

[Barqay] The prime minister, as stated, did not convince the MAFDAL. Its members abstained. But most of the Knesset authorized the new appointments of Ministers Pat, Landau, David Levi and Moda'i. That's all from the Knesset.

Peres Attacks Government

TA151849Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] And now to the Knesset, which is still discussing the prime minister's announcement concerning the changes in the cabinet. The opposition is taking advantage of this debate in order to attack the government, while the coalition is hesitating on how to obtain a majority in the voting, since the MAFDAL has announced that it will abstain.

[Razi Barqay] The alinement is trying to pick a bone with the government in all sectors of activity and MK Shim'on Peres says that this government, which has caused so many foulups, will not be able to correct them.

[Peres--begin recording] Israel has never in its life known such an incompetent government. Lacking honesty, with a minimal grasp [of affairs], a government of blunders the length and breadth of the country, the length and breadth of the state, and in the eyes of the whole world. Within only 1 and 1/2 years it has managed to make two statistically impressive achievements: Israel has taken over the second place in the world in the inflationary hit parade, something the we had never known before; and for the first time in the history of our relations with the United States, 37 percent of U.S. public opinion backs the Egyptian position and only 30 percent backs Israel. [end recording]

CABINET DECIDES TO ESTABLISH THREE NAHAL SETTLEMENTS

TA142031Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] The Cabinet has decided to establish three new Nahal strongholds beyond the green line. The decision was made about a month ago, whereas work to set up the new strongholds will [only] start in the next few days.

Our correspondent on settlement affairs, Yig'al Goren, reports that one stronghold will be established east of Jericho; the second stronghold will be established in the Jiftlik area in the center of the Jordan Valley; and the third in the southern part of the Gaza Strip in the Rafah area.

Our correspondent says that the Cabinet decision said that the report on the establishment of the strongholds should not be publicized but that if it is nevertheless publicized, it should not be denied. At the same time, Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon today denied reports alleging that the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs has decided to set up new settlements in Samaria. The work that is currently underway in Samaria is intended to add to the population of the existing settlements. The chairman of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department also denies these reports.

Six New Settlements

TA151608Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] New settlements will soon be set up in the Jordan Valley, the Gaza Strip and the Galilee. Our military correspondent has learned that in the light of the decision of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs yesterday, applying a plan to set up another six settlements began today, and the various elements were busy today locating the appropriate places for the outposts.

Four of the outposts will be set up beyond the green line: the settlement of Si'on will be set up in the area of Harduf in the northern Golan; two settlements will be set up in the Jordan Valley, one near the Jiftlik area, northwest of Adam Bridge and the other, east of Jericho, southwest of the Allenby Bridge; a settlement that will be called Qatif B will be established in the Rafah area in the Gaza Strip. Two additional settlements will be set up in the Galilee, 'Atzmon north of the Sakhnin and Qedar south of Sakhnin. Our military correspondent remarks that Qatif B will be set up next week, 'Atzmon in about 2 weeks and Qedar in about a month.

Nabulus Settlement

TA151036Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Jan 79 p 2 TA

[By Dalya Shehori, 'AL HAMISHMAR political correspondent]

[Text] "Any report alleging that the Cabinet has decided to set up a settlement or settlements near Nabulus is groundless and unfounded," Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or said yesterday in reply to correspondents' questions. Na'or added that the settlement issue was not brought up yesterday at the Cabinet session.

Referring to reports stating that there exists a decision of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs that dates back to November 1977 concerning the establishment of a settlement near Nabulus, the Cabinet secretary said that there was no point in publishing such a decision just as there is no point in publishing the decision which was, for example, made in November 1957, because they are over and done with.

MINISTER MODA'I SPEAKS ON OIL ISSUE, PEACE TREATY

TA160913Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0530 GMT 16 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv, 16 Jan--Energy, Infrastructure and Communications Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said that Israel has reached the brink of what may be called "second thoughts" with respect to signing the peace treaty with Egypt. However, despite all Israel's doubts as a result of the fact that the peace agreement was not signed with enthusiasm from the first moment of this move, the minister thinks that the peace treaty with Egypt will nevertheless be signed and soon.

Moda'i was speaking at a farewell party held on Monday evening at the ZOA [Zionist Organization of America] house in Tel Aviv for British leaders of the Conservative Party in Parliament who will leave Israel on Tuesday morning at the end of a weeklong visit to Israel as guests of the Likud.

Moda'i devoted most of his speech to energy problems and said that the oil issue will probably be the central and main question in the continued negotiations for peace with Egypt.

He remarked that Israel has left the oil issue as a separate issue in the political and military negotiations with Egypt on purpose, since oilfields are usually not connected with the principle of sovereignty over the territory that belongs to the country where the oilfields can be found, since most of the oilfields in the world do not belong to the countries in which they are located, but rather to the foreign companies drilling there. Also, the oil issue is an economic and commercial issue, considering that the oilfields developed by Israel in the Sinai will produce oil intended for export as Egypt already supplies its own needs. Israel, on the other hand, will be returning an oilfield to Egypt which, with its development in the future, will be able to supply all of Israel's oil requirements.

Moda'i revealed that recently Israel has held contacts with the British authorities concerning the possibility of oil supply from the North Sea, oil which, under certain conditions, might be of utmost importance for Israel's vital interests. For technical reasons, however, the British could promise us only that next year will they be able to discuss the possibilities of supplying oil.

As for the negotiations for peace in our area, Moda'i clarified that even if peace between Israel and Egypt is achieved, Israel's wars will not be over, as Israel is still facing threats from the north and from the east. These threats are currently stronger than what is threatening us from the south. At the same time, despite Israel's doubts, Israel is prepared to sign Moda'i said, and expressed the hope that the signing will indeed take place soon.

WEIZMAN EXPLAINS ATTITUDE TOWARD OUTGOING CHIEF OF STAFF

TA151632Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Defense Minister Ezer Weizman denied that outgoing Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur had not received an emergency appointment in the reserve because he is a member of the Labor Party Bureau. Answering a query by MK Asaf Yaguri, the defense minister said that the IDF is assisted by the knowledge and experience of previous chiefs of staff, but not by appointing them commanders. Weizman said that there are another four chiefs of staff in the government and in the Knesset, their experience is greater than that of Gur, but they too were not given such an appointment.

MK RABIN COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN

TA121617Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Jan 79 pp 2, 14 Weekend Supplement TA

[Yitzhaq Rabin commentary: "What Should We Learn From Events in Iran"]

[Text] Parallel to the negotiations between Israel and Egypt which have already been going on for a year, and recently at a snail's pace, we are witnessing far-reaching changes in the Middle East. The developments in Iran over the past few months have long- and short-term implications for all future events in this region.

In the power struggle in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and the oil emirates nearby, as well as Iran, serve as central targets. In fact, the essence of the interbloc struggle is an attempt by the United States to hold on to these countries, which today are the oil well of the free world, and prevent them from falling under Soviet influence. All this is taking place while the secondary oil sources in the Middle East (Libya, Iraq) are already under Soviet influence.

The value of Middle Eastern oil to the Western economy (Japan, Europe and the United States) has risen at an alarming rate in the wake of the increased industrialization and the life-style of the free world. Today there is no substitute for the Middle Eastern energy sources for the economy of the West and no substitute can be seen in the next 10 years.

Big power involvement in the Israel-Arab conflict was and is a secondary activity. With the Soviet Union having tried and continuing to try to exploit this conflict to arrive at its central target--Saudi Arabia and the oil emirates--the United States has been and is trying to solve the conflict in order to deny the Soviet Union the means to increase its influence in this region and prevent Soviet infiltration into Saudi Arabia.

The latest developments in Iran point to the possibility of direct Soviet infiltration of the Middle East's energy sources turning the limited Israeli-Arab conflict into the secondary conflict from the big powers' point of view.

The Soviet Union is trying to achieve its central aims in the struggle against the United States in the Middle East through a new political model. Just a few years ago this model looked liked an impossibility. I am referring to the strange combination of a Muslim-Arab regime which is very extreme in its domestic policies but provides full strategic cooperation with the Soviet Union. [paragraph continues]

This model was tried successfully in Libya. It is especially applicable to the Soviet Union's two target countries--Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The Americans fear that this model is being built at this moment in Iran and that the religious leader, Khomeyni, will become the Al-Qadhdhafi of Iran if and when he succeeds in assuming power. In the next stage, and perhaps by other means, efforts will be directed toward changing the regime in Saudi Arabia. If this frightening possibility is realized it will be the Soviet Union's greatest achievement in its struggle against the United States since World War II. This would constitute a significant long-term change in the balance of powers between the powers.

I have always believed that the Soviet struggle against the free world is, first and foremost, directed toward expanding its influence in Western Europe. However, the present Soviet path is following a detour--by obtaining control and influence in the Middle East and, mainly, controlling Europe's energy source. The United States and the free world face the most serious challenge of this generation.

In having to deal with this challenge effectively, the United States presently finds itself in a very weak position. Today, many view the United States as a paper tiger. There is no chance of its direct involvement to prevent the fall of governments friendly to it. The sending of an F-15 squadron to Saudi Arabia is a case of too little too late. It is doubtful if it can change the U.S. image. The CIA has been castrated over the past few years as a tool for effective undercover activity. The human rights flag which the Carter administration likes to wave was the straw that broke the back of the Persian shah when he was forced by the United States in November 1977 to allow a free press and free political activity in his country. The idea of using human rights as an ideological lever in the struggle against the Soviets has yielded no results and it has only served to seriously harm pro-American regimes in the Third World.

The Iranian regime still has a small chance if composed of moderate elements (the National Front--which is the opposition in Iran--and the army) such as Shahpur Bakhtiar who is presently trying to establish his government. However, it is doubtful today if it is possible to change the direction of developments in Iran which will probably lead to a Khomeyni regime and that of the extreme Muslim religious establishment.

This development must have an influence on the negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Despite the parties' having different points of view, they are united in their concern about recent developments in the arena. This concern should lead to a number of practical conclusions:

--First conclusion: to speed up the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in order to establish pro-Western Israeli-Egyptian relations. The longer the negotiations continue, the greater the possibility of expected and unexpected difficulties arising which might place a burden on the chances for the positive conclusion of the negotiations. The extreme Muslim wave might spread in the Arab world and weigh down As-Sadat and his moves. The failure of the Egyptian president--that is, the failure to achieve an Israeli-Egyptian agreement--might cast doubts upon the continuation of his policy. Since the end of the Yom Kippur war this policy has been based on the United States and it seeks peace with Israel. There is a danger that if the negotiations collapse there will be a political change in Egypt and that it will then return to the Soviet Union's sphere of influence.

--Second conclusion: after signing the agreement with Egypt, there is room for Israel to reassess its position with respect to the autonomy. This would be done in order to find a way of bringing Jordan into the political process. The Government of Jordan is pro-Western and seeks a full peace with Israel. [paragraph continues]

Jordan has unwillingly been dragged into the extreme Arab rejectionist front, to a large extent as a result of present Israeli policy's not leaving it a crack through which to join the Israeli-Egyptian axis which will be established with the signing of the peace treaty. In view of the dangers arising from the developments in Iran and their implication for the Arab-Muslim world, extracting Jordan from the extreme Arab circle is of major importance.

--Third conclusion: to act to neutralize negative trends in the United States, which has awakened too late to the trouble it is in. One can learn from reports coming from the United States that the policymakers of that country have apparently reached the conclusion that they should go back to [seeking] a comprehensive settlement. That is to say, to act as fast as possible to achieve a peace on all fronts of the Israel-Arab conflict so as to get Syria out of the sphere of Soviet influence. This will all be done at Israel's expense. Even if there is a chance of bringing Jordan into the negotiations, as the United States thinks there is, American hopes bringing in Syria are totally without foundation.

For the time being, the issues under dispute between Israel and Egypt which are preventing the signing of a peace treaty have no direct bearing on developments in Iran or with respect to the Baghdad conference. However, the longer the negotiations continue the greater the dangers for the possibility that peace will ever be achieved. Such a failure in the negotiations could be a further stage in increasing Soviet influence in the Middle East, with all the negative implications for the future of the State of Israel in both the short and long term.

REPORT ON SITUATION BETWEEN MILITIAS, UNIFIL

TA151859Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] And now to southern Lebanon, where the militia forces blockade against the members of a UNIFIL unit, established this morning, is still continuing. The militia commanders are demanding the expulsion of the Nigerian units, who arrived yesterday to replace the Iranian units. The militia forces are also protesting barriers being set up preventing their personnel from having free passage in the arteries along which they have run patrols up to now. Here is the report from the north by our correspondent Yehezqel Hame'iri.

Many UN troops from the units stationed in southern Lebanon, who arrived this morning with their vehicles at the border passes in the good fence, were not permitted to enter the area and remained stuck in Metulla and Qiryat Shmona. Armed guards from the militia forces have set up barriers at the border passes and are preventing the entry or exit of UN personnel in vehicles or on foot. The UN people have not tried to break through the barriers by force, but the tension has been great and there is a fear of clashes.

The militia commanders are demanding, as a condition for lifting the blockade, the immediate expulsion of the Nigerian units which took up positions yesterday in the At Tayyibah area, in place of the Iranian battalion. The militia commanders today repeated their accusations that the Nigerians are cooperating with the terrorists and their control of the Raqi'ah Bridge, one of the main passages over the Litani, permits the infiltration of terrorists into the enclave villages, as [the terrorists] want.

The Nigerians today continued digging in the area, as well as setting up further barriers on various traffic arteries, in order to prevent the passage of the militia fighters. The French have also set up barriers in the western sector and are preventing the militias from passing. These moves, the militias' spokesman (Bulus Miquel) claimed today, are aimed at stopping the militias' movements and gradually eliminating their activity in the enclave. The spokesman threatened that if the UN personnel do not lift the barriers, the militias will use force to break them. Today it was learned that not all the Iranian force has left the area. Several units have remained there, but the Nigerians hurried to take over the positions and the bases, apparently from the fear that when the Iranians leave, the militia forces will try to take control of the area and broaden their sphere of control. Today reinforcements were also rushed to the aid of the Nigerians: Several units from the Irish force reached the place with the aid of tanks. In view of the increasing tension, there is a fear of clashes but at this stage nothing has happened. That's all from Yehezkel Hame'iri, from the northern border.

JERUSALEM PAPER CRITICIZES CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

JN141603Y Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Jan 79 p 1 JN

[Editorial: "The Essence, Not the Form, Is of Importance"]

[Text] The reader in the occupied territories takes only a cursory glance at the daily reports on the imminent resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli talks. These reports no longer draw his attention or appeal to him. We might say that most readers read only the headlines, not bothering about the details.

This apathy is unnatural for a people who daily suffer from the occupation. This carelessness and apathy arise from the conviction of our people in the occupied territories that all these talks will not result in any positive results that they can accept or be satisfied with.

Egypt insists that there must be a connection between the Sinai agreement and the framework agreement related to the occupied territories. Egypt also insists on drawing up a timetable to implement what it calls self-rule and what we call civil administration. The two terminologies are of course different and their practical aspects are even more different. The citizen in the occupied territories believes, and rightly so, that even if Israel agrees to the Egyptian demands, the picture will not change and the occupation will not be lifted. The situation might even get worse.

The connection between the two agreements and the proposed timetable are formalities and do not affect the essence of the framework agreement. The framework agreement as worded and agreed on does not meet with the minimum of our aspirations and is not fit to be a background on which we might improve or which we can amend. When our people in the occupied territories reject this agreement, they do so after a careful study and not out of love for negative attitudes. Surely the agreement will not achieve the cherished peace or insure the future of the coming generations. Hence, and before falling into another pitfall from which it will be difficult to be extricated, we advise Egypt, if we are allowed to do so, to cease its demands for formalities and begin asking for the essentials.

The framework agreement was concluded in haste in the final hours of the Camp David agreement. It was reached when the nerves of the negotiating parties became exhausted. The Egyptian side did not have a clear picture on the Palestinian land and how the Israeli Government added all the state lands to the lands of Israel and considered them an Israeli possession that no one can claim. Israel thinks that if it confiscates this land it would not be infringing on anybody's rights.

Those who are well-meaning and those who are looking for an acceptable solution within the present possibilities agree with us that an essential change must be introduced in the framework agreement. The U.S. President became convinced of this. But conviction is one thing, and the implementation of the conviction is quite another thing.

PEACE NOW DEMONSTRATION ENDS QUIETLY IN JERUSALEM

TA131926Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The Peace Now demonstration near the prime minister's home [as heard] in Jerusalem dispersed after representatives of the movement presented Mr Begin's aides with a letter demanding that the decision to establish a settlement near Nabulus be reversed and a return to the original Camp David agreements.

Mr Begin's aides, Yehi'el Qadishay, told our correspondent Shalom Oren that there had been no oral pledge to Gush Emunim members to establish a settlement east of Nabulus and that there had been no Cabinet decision on the subject.

Gush Emunim Children at Rally

TA131930Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Following the Peace Now demonstration, dozens of children from a Gush Emunim settlement came to the prime minister's home in Jerusalem and distributed flowers there. A note attached to the flowers said that they had grown in the Shave Shomron settlement near Sebastia and that the security of Israel can be maintained only thanks to Jewish settlements in Samaria.

Since the Peace Now demonstrators were no longer there, the children distributed the flowers to passersby in the main streets of the city.

ROMANIAN CP DELEGATION POSTPONES VISIT TO ISRAEL

TA141359Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Jan 79 p 4 TA

[By M. Shmaryahu]

[Text] A delegation of three Politburo members of the Romanian Communist Party, which was to have come to Israel last on Friday as guest of MAPAM and the Labor Party, has canceled its visit at the last moment.

A message arriving from Bucharest on Friday said that "due to last minute technical difficulties the delegation was precluded" from coming to Israel. The Romanian Communist Party will announce a new date for the delegation's visit.

SHAH SPEAKS BRIEFLY BEFORE LEAVING COUNTRY

LD161115Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The shahanshah aryamehr and her imperial majesty the shahbanu left Tehran for the Arab Republic of Egypt for a vacation at 1308 today.

The shahanshah and the shahbanu left Mehrabad Airport at 1308 with a send-off by Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the prime minister; Dr Javad Sa'id, the speaker of the Majlis; Dr 'Ali Qoli Ardalan, the imperial court minister; and a group of state notables and officials.

In a brief interview with reporters, the shahanshah said he is leaving Tehran for Aswan in Egypt, and that he will rest there for a few days. He continued: As I said when this government was formed, for some time now I have been experiencing fatigue and I need to rest. At the same time I said that once my mind had been put at rest and the government had been confirmed, I would take a trip. This trip is beginning now, today, as a result of the Majlis vote which followed the Senate vote of confidence.

I hope the government will be successful in both repairing the damage of the past and in laying foundations for the future. In order to achieve this we need, for some time yet, cooperation and the feeling of patriotism in the broadest sense of the word. Our economy should be activated; the ordinary life of the people should resume; and we should lay better foundations for the future.

The shahanshah added: I have nothing more to say except: Protect the country and do your duty on the basis of patriotism. With regard to the duration of the trip, the shahanshah said: This depends on my physical condition and I cannot specify it right now.

The shahbanu also said in an interview: I am confident the country's independence and national unity will always be maintained. I have faith and belief in the Iranian nation. Similarly, I believe in the culture of Iran. I hope and I know that God will always be with, and support, the Iranian nation.

The shahanshah and the shahbanu, while being seen off by the prime minister and others present, walked under a copy of the Koran and embarked on the imperial Boeing-727. They left Tehran at 1308 with the shah piloting the aircraft personally.

SENATOR NA'INI CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IN SENATE

LD151204Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Senator Jalali Na'ini spoke in today's Senate session in opposition to the government program. Commenting on the judiciary, the senator said:

Things can only be improved in the Justice Ministry, when the government takes over the control of the country. This can only be accomplished when all organizations are in a position to cooperate with each other; otherwise, nothing can be achieved. Right now a number of families of political prisoners are holding a sit-in in the Ministry of Justice and the Lawyers' Center. I beg you to issue appropriate instructions in this regard, so that the Justice Ministry is cleared of these people and those who are truly and legally political prisoners are freed as soon as possible.

Senator Na'ini then referred to the university and university staff question and called on the government to assure young people that the era of judicial security, freedom and democracy has arrived. He cited students' demands, saying: The professors who have been retired early are asking for these illegal personnel actions to be declared null and void, thus enabling these professors who have been driven away from the university to return to work.

Referring to the halt in the export of oil to Israel and South Africa, Senator Na'ini said: I believe this action by the government was a very wise and just action; for right is right and evil is evil. This policy of the government enjoys the support of the majority of the Iranian people.

He added: Our army is a source of pride for our country. The army is the guardian of the country's borders and boundaries. The army's unity must be maintained. Its mission is to deal such a blow to any foreign enemy which might, God forbid, attack the country that no trace would remain of it. The army's might must be preserved and strengthened within the framework of the financial possibilities. As for its duty, the army is duty-bound to remain subject to the country's laws, to remain subject to the control of the government which enjoys the confidence of the houses of parliament. This is stipulated in the constitution. Why? Because politicians are in a better position to find solutions to political problems than the army.

Senator Na'ini's speech lasted about 1 hour.

Bakhtiar Address

ID151448Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1140 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Speech by Iranian Prime Minister Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar to the Senate on 15 January--recorded]

[Text] Mr President, ladies and gentlemen: Before answering the Right Honorable Senator Jalali Na'ini, I wish to thank you for your kindness in this respectable place. Considering our past acquaintance, I did not expect otherwise. Voltaire says: If there were no God, we would have had to create him. Now, if a parliament lacks a minority, it would also have had to be created. Any Majlis lacking a minority would cause suspicion, and a country which is supposed to be conducted in a democratic manner [sentence as heard].

The points raised here dealt mainly with the past government. The situation we are facing and the impasse the country and the government is in could not possibly be attributed to a government which was formed only 1 week ago. [murmurs of assent] What I heard yesterday in the Majlis and today in the Senate are points which I have been making for the past 25 years. As long as 18 months ago we sent a letter to his imperial majesty, signed by three people, demanding the implementation of the constitution.

I adhere to the same beliefs now as I held during the period of Dr Mossadeq. My action during the past 25 years substantiates the policy and beliefs which I have always held and, should I live any longer, will always hold.

These principles, although simple, are necessary for the stability and survival of the country as well for the progress of Iranian society. It took over at a time, as you gentlemen know, when the country was facing an impasse--economically, politically and socially. Had it not been for such state of affairs, I am absolutely certain that I would not have been appointed prime minister. However, what can one do? Living in a dream world, running away from responsibility and such remarks as "I committed no sin in this period" are not only (?irrelevant) but show that one is not an Iranian. Anyone born and bred in this country, anyone who has enjoyed the blessings of this country, has certain responsibilities to society and the nation; whatever profession anyone is in one must accept one's responsibilities. It was because of this, not because I have more or less courage than anyone else, that I accepted this responsibility.

As to democracy, foreign policy and other issues, as pointed out by the Right Honorable Senator Jalali Na'ini, I confirm everything included in the government program with everything in my power. I began to implement these things at least 7 days ago.

My first democratic action was to seek a vote of approval. This was one of the conditions for accepting the responsibility, so that it would be proved gradually to the people of this country that its representatives--the parliament--must have a decisive and definite right, even in giving a vote of confidence to the prime minister.

If there were political parties enjoying a majority in the parliament, then there would be no need to raise the issue; for in that case, a representative of the majority party would automatically become a candidate for the post of prime minister. However, under the present circumstances, there is no such alternative, nor has there been since the era of the late Dr Mosaddeq. Therefore, I took the initiative and hope this method will continue.

As for the problems of the past 25 years in this country, I do not believe there is anyone who is more aware of them than myself. Many of you gentlemen were only bystanders: I was there, fully involved. The prime minister who stands before you today--you must know this--was attacked 11 months ago. The situation was as follows: 11 months ago, when we were celebrating the Qorban festival in a garden near Karaj, west of Tehran, following a premeditated plot by the Rastakhiz Party, a group of hooligans attacked us, and as a preacher was giving us the verse [from the Koran--verse indistinct], they beat Engineer Hasibit and Mr Foruhar [both of the National Front] and broke my arm. My arm is not normal yet. What happened and what they did should be ignored when the country's unity, independence and survival is at stake.

As for religious leaders, as pointed out by Mr Na'ini, I come from a very fanatical and religious family. Despite the fact that my education has been mainly in Europe, yet, considering my family links, my acquaintance with their eminences and the acquaintance of my father, my family and I with them, I can state quite categorically--and I will not say any more today--that I am in touch with most of their eminences; their views about me personally and the sensitive policy I have adopted, if not very favorable, are however more favorable than their views about all those hitherto.

To throw more light on this, I can say that His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni is close to my family and familiar with it. I am in touch with him myself. The method adopted by him and the objections stated do not concern me personally; the issues go beyond this.

In any case, I did point this out to the corrupt and encroaching governments. However, regression and constantly harping on the theme that for 25 years they pillaged, plundered and violated rights serves no purpose; it should only be pointed out. Those who committed such deeds must be punished, so as to be a lesson for future leaders.

As to political prisoners, before Senator Na'ini brought this up, I referred to the issue both in the government program and even before becoming prime minister. I have been a political prisoner myself; I have spent long years in prison. Senator Na'ini says that some university professors have been retired. I was retired at the age of 37 or 38, suffering privation and no pension. Therefore, I am fully aware of their problems. There are no more than 140-150 political prisoners. However, as I pointed out, we must distinguish between political prisoners and criminals. The man who in cold blood saws off someone's arms or legs, even though it is because of his beliefs, cannot be considered a political prisoner. Engineer Bazargan was a political prisoner, but this other man is not. This should be made clear. Everyone doing anything he wants and then claiming to be a liberal cannot be considered a political prisoner.

As for the independence of universities, I believe that as a result of talks some university chancellors held with, among others, Dr Sheybani, Tehran university has reopened. We will give freedom to our university, as always, clearly and genuinely. I must point out that the university's independence is final. But the university, too, must have consideration for the sanctity of the unity of the Iranian people. If there is to be freedom in the university, then professors and students should have meetings and discussions. However, if in such a university they fly the Red flag, or they fly the Red flag and the Iranian flag, or if slogans about the disintegration of the country are heard, then it is impossible for us to continue to tolerate them. [murmurs of assent]

There is no doubt that during the past 25 years many people have suffered, been sent to prison, been subjected to torture, some of which one is ashamed to describe, for instance, for reading a certain book, whether by Dr Shari'ati, God bless his soul; or by Karl Marx. These things must not result in sending someone to prison, much less torture. These are the things practised in this country. I promise you, as long as I am prime minister, they will not be repeated.

As for our foreign and independent policies, whatever was stipulated in the National Front program, whatever was outlined by the late Dr Mosaddeq--that is a policy of negative balance [siasat-e movazeneh manfi], that is conceding the minimum to a foreign government so that the other might demand a minimum--will be pursued. However, it should be borne in mind that we live in a world in which the definition of independence is not the same as was understood in the 19th Century. There are interests, expediences, there are international deals which one must be fully familiar with. I think it is puerile to sink our heads in the sand and think we have independence, that we are surrounded by a Great Wall of China, without any regard for the outside world.

We must assess the realities as included in the government program; we must give top priority to our interests in everything we do. However, others have interests as well, whether in this country or abroad. These problems are so complex that they must be handled carefully.

As for Israel, as long as Israel refuses to settle its differences with our Muslim brothers, not only will I not supply it with a drop of oil, not only will I not send an ambassador or consul to that country, but I will definitely demonstrate an unfavorable approach to the Israeli or any other such aggressive government. The same applies to South Africa.

I am going to ask the foreign minister to (?enter) into negotiations with the Palestinian movement, as long as it does not harm our freedom and independence and does not add another center of corruption [fesad] to other centers which unfortunately already exist in this country. I am therefore quite prepared to study this issue, for some (?70) governments have already officially recognized the PLO.

The program presented to you gentlemen by this government is in line with the people's demands. The people are demanding punishment of those who have violated their rights. I am therefore appealing to you, ladies and gentlemen, to refrain from going abroad until the submission of two bills concerning the punishment of criminals and the abolition of SAVAK and its replacement by a state information organization--for which we shall need a quorum in the Senate. It is because of this that at times I contact you by telephone asking you not to leave Iran, so that within the next 2 weeks I may submit these two bills.

Another point raised by Senator Na'ini concerned the army. As he pointed out, there are a number of people in this country who are serving with less privileges [word indistinct] under difficult circumstances. I do not see any reason for an Iranian who does not wear an army uniform to confront someone who does. The army is created primarily to defend the country's borders and boundaries. This is the philosophy behind the existence of the army; there is no other philosophy. Under exceptional circumstances, such as the present one, the army is used to assist the police and gendarmerie. I repeat, our police are really selfless. As far as the policeman is concerned, we are not being fair about him. This government must really pay more attention to the living conditions of the police, so that these improve.

Consequently, apart from the fact that the army serves the country when necessary to preserve its independence and integrity, the army is also a (?foundation) of the country's unity. For it is the people of this country who either in army uniform or in civilian clothing create solidarity between the various people of the country. This solidarity, this national solidarity, if it is to be respected, then the army, too, must be respected. Without an army to help us, as it did, simply because a certain colonel or officer violated his duties--after all, did the civilians not resort to the same thing, did they not do worse?--this should not be used as a pretext to weaken the army's morale.
[murmurs of assent]

As your time and my own is rather limited, I should not go into further details. I only hope that, considering the faith and the feeling which must exist in the present difficult situation in every Iranian, you will help me. I beg your assistance and the help of all the Iranian people to enable me to carry out this duty, a duty I am not running away from, and to succeed, even relatively.

My wish is that the future prime minister, whoever he is, might represent a quiet, flourishing country; a genuine parliament, a democratic government and progressive programs. What I assure you of, irrespective of any mistake I might make, is Iran's independence, glory, welfare, progress and pride. I have (nothing) else in mind.

Majlis Vote of Confidence

LD160903Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0851 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Majlis gave its vote of confidence to the government of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar today.

After 15 hours of debate and consideration of the government of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, the Majlis, at its open and extraordinary session which ended at 1205 this afternoon, with 149 votes for, 43 votes against and 13 abstentions, gave its vote of confidence to Shahpur Bakhtiar's government.

APP: ARMY CHIEF SAYS NO MILITARY COUP

TA151530Y Paris APP in English 1520 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 15 (AFP)--General Karim 'Abbas Qarabaghi, appointed army chief of staff last week, said here today there will be no military coup in Iran after the shah leaves the country.

Speaking at a press conference, he however hinted that an army mutiny could not be ruled out. He did not elaborate on this.

The army, he said, supported "any legal government" and safeguarded the constitution. But the army had been subject to "provocations" recently in Tabriz, Shiraz, and elsewhere. He warned Iranians, particularly demonstrators, not to "provoke" the army, which he said only intervened with the aim of maintaining order.

240 CONVICTED BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS TO BE RELEASED

LD161136Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Judiciary Department of the imperial armed forces announced today that on orders from the shahanshah aryamehr 240 people convicted by military tribunals for various offenses have been pardoned. The announcement says the matter has been communicated to prison offices so that these people may be released immediately. The question of pardoning or reprieving other convicts is under review.

TABRIZ POLICE STATION CHIEF SHOT DEAD BY TERRORISTS

LD151742Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Text] In the course of an armed attack on Tabriz police station No 1, Maj Majid Majidi, the chief of the police station, was killed. Terrorists with machineguns opened fire on the chief of the Tabriz police station in front of his house and killed him on the spot. According to our correspondent's report from Tabriz, during this armed attack the police chief's driver and a policeman were also shot dead and another police officer was wounded and is now hospitalized at the Tabriz army hospital.

KHOMEYNI FORMS COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTION

LD131246Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] The Regency Council was formed in Tehran this morning and its composition will be officially announced tomorrow. We are now going to speak to Yves Loiseau, our correspondent in Tehran; You undoubtedly know, Yves Loiseau, all the news circulating in Tehran, and you have perhaps also heard the news circulating here in Paris. It is said, for example, that Ayatollah Khomeyni will become head of state in a few days' time and that this morning he announced the formation of a Council of the Islamic Revolution. Did this news have any consequences in Tehran?

[Loiseau] This is exactly what I was going to tell you: a message from Ayatollah Khomeyni was read out at the university this morning. It indicates that a national revolutionary council--in the ayatollah's own words--has already been formed, but the names of those taking part in it will only be revealed in the days to come. The religious leaders are thus making the most of their advantage. They are in the process of building up a second power, of bypassing, and thus invalidating, Shahpur Bakhtiar's government and even the famous Regency Council you have mentioned.

More on Council

LD131614Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 13 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] While the Regency Council is meeting in Tehran--nothing is known of the content of the discussions being held there--the Ayatollah Khomeyni has announced the setting up in Iran of an Islamic Revolutionary Council, which has already begun to function. Its main objective will be to prepare the setting up of an interim government whose tasks would be to install a constituent assembly elected by the people in order to approve the new constitution of an Iranian Islamic republic. The interim government would have the task of organizing elections according to the principles laid down by the constituent assembly and supervising the transfer of power to the newly elected leaders.

Further Details

NC131244Y Paris AFP in English 1232 GMT 13 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Paris, Jan 13 (AFP)--Iranian opposition leader Ruhollah Khomeyni today announced the provisional creation of a "Council of the Islamic Revolution," his followers said here. They said the council's task will be to install a provisional government to set up an Islamic republic.

A statement by the exiled Shi'ite Muslim spiritual leader accused the shah of preparing a military coup. Ayatollah Khomeyni said that any cooperation with the government designed by the shah was illegal.

The statement appealed to the Iranian Army to prevent a military coup, and exhorted the people to carry on their strikes and protest demonstrations. If the people are attacked, they should defend themselves even if that led to deaths, the statement said. The ayatollah has been living in a Paris suburb since his expulsion from Iraq triggered the 8 September rioting in Iran that caused the shah to clamp down martial law.

Denial Council Members Named

TA152118Y Paris AFP in English 2118 GMT 15 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Paris, Jan 15 (AFP)--Press reports naming members of an "Islamic Revolutionary Council," set up by exiled Iranian opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, were today declared "without foundation" by a member of his entourage.

The denial was made from the Shi'ite Muslim chief's base at Neauphle-le-Chateau, in the suburbs west of Paris, by Sade Ghotb-Zadeh whose name appeared on the list of five "council" members circulated by usually well-informed sources in Tehran.

Mr Ghotb-Zadeh, a religious and political activist, said that at present only the ayatollah knew the number of "council" members and their names.

Also on the list reported yesterday were General Madani, former deputy commander of the Iranian Navy; Dr Yazdi, a member of the "liberties movement" and adviser to Ayatollah Khomeyni; Mehdi Bazargan, a member of the largest Iranian opposition group, the National Front; and Fazlollah Bani Sadr, president of the student section of the "National Front Abroad."

The "council" was reportedly set up to guide anti-shah opposition in Iran.

Mr Ghotb-Zadeh added that no date had been set for Ayatollah Khomeyni to return to Iran and this was unlikely to occur before the end of the week.

Ayatollah Khomeyni said today that if he came to power relations established by the shah with the United States "will of course be cut."

The ayatollah, who was interviewed by French television on his proposed foreign policy, added that such links "were against the national interest of Iran." He said that everything "not based on mutual respect" would be rejected by him.

"We do not wish to cut off relations with all other countries. Our ties will simply be revised," the ayatollah said.

AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI'S STATEMENTS REPORTED

Remarks on U.S. Position

LD121415Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 12 Jan 79 LD

[Text] All the events which have shaken Iran in recent times are broached in an interview which Ayatollah Khomeyni has granted to the Algerian weekly REVOLUTION AFRICAINE. On the subject of the U.S. position, Ayatollah Khomeyni says it is the U.S. President's attitude which encouraged the shah to scorn the will of the people and (?act) with total impunity. Questioned on his political program and on his wish to install an Islamic republic, Ayatollah Khomeyni states to REVOLUTION AFRICAINE that the constitution of the state should be based on the prescriptions of Islam, that the deputies and senators should be the true representatives of the people and [words indistinct].

Remarks on Oil, Foreigners

DW150845Y Hamburg Domestic Television Service in German 2115 GMT 12 Jan 79 DW

[Excerpts from reporter Hagemeyer recorded interview with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni; language and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] In case your movement should take over the Iranian Government, what would be the central points of your economic policy? What fields would you promote in particular?

[Answer] I cannot give you any details on that issue. There are special experts for economic problems. It is their task to solve these problems. What we have in mind is rejecting an economy that depends on foreign countries. We demand an independent economy. Since ours is an agrarian country, our agriculture should remain independent and active. The ruin created by the shah must be eliminated, and industrialization must go on in Iran in every form approved by the experts.

[Question] Do you want to solve these problems without foreign aid?

[Answer] If our experts consider it necessary to accept foreign aid and foreign experts, naturally this will be done. What we have in mind is not accepting foreigners coming to our country to jeopardize our independence.

[Question] What course would Iran steer with regard to oil policy if you were to partake in the government?

[Answer] Of course we will gain political advantages through the sale of oil or through abstaining from oil sales. We do not plan to stockpile oil because we need the money made in oil sales. We want to avoid squandering our oil, however. If we were to take over, we would offer oil and sell it to those who pay more and under better conditions.

[Question] Recently your movement has shown strong tendencies directed against foreigners. Would there be any room for foreign enterprises in an Islamic republic of Iran?

[Answer] We are not hostile toward foreigners. We have said nothing with regard to foreigners. We are hostile toward those governments that applied force to Iran and that forced the shah on Iran, and against governments from which we have suffered. We are not hostile, though, toward the citizens of those governments.

As regards Germany, we are not hostile toward it. Everything this country does there and possesses there that does not contradict the interests of our country will remain free and protected.

[Announcer] Who serves the country and who harms it--all that is put down on black lists by the Khomeyni followers. German firms fear these lists because some of them have been registered there. The grey eminence in the dark cloak continues to be most active with regard to Iranian policy. It will eventually depend on him whether Prime Minister Bakhtiar's government appointed by the shah, will stand its ground.

Beirut Weekly Interview

JN121440Y Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 8-14 Jan 79 pp 14-19 JN

[Interview by Mona as-Said with Iranian opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in Paris--date not given]

[Text] Post-shah Iran will be a multi-party Islamic republic in which free elections are held, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told me in a private interview in a Paris suburb. The charismatic self-exiled religious leader, who is behind the popular upheaval now shaking the Peacock Throne, gave me a preview of the projected new state's attitudes toward various countries and forces:

--U.S. President Jimmy Carter, he said, is "one of the enemies of Iran."

--The Soviet Union, though it cannot be regarded with as much hostility as the U.S., has nevertheless failed to condemn the shah. Instead, it has supported him and has "misrepresented the sacred Islamic movement of Iran."

--Chinese Chairman Hua Guofeng [Hua Kuo-feng] has "walked over the bodies of our people" and admired the handiwork of the shah.

--The Iraqi Government, under pressure from the shah, has refused to help the people of Iran "within the Iraqi borders"--a reference to Iraq's expulsion of Khomeyni in 1978 on the grounds that he was violating the rules of political asylum.

--Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has taken steps "against the interests of the Muslim people of the Arab countries and our Palestinian brothers."

--Israel, "from the point of view of Islam, is an aggressor, and we will not hesitate to take steps to end her aggression." (The ayatollah has on several occasions announced the Iran opposition's intention to slap Israel with an oil boycott when it takes over the country.)

--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee, has the support of the Iranian people in his struggle "to regain the rights of the Palestinians and return Muslim lands to the Muslims."

The 79-year-old leader, who refused to answer a question about his attitude toward the Arab oil-producing states of the gulf, also withheld comment on Shahpur Bakhtiar, the Iranian opposition leader who has been named prime minister. But he repeated earlier statements that there can be no compromise with the shah, and that no member of the Pahlavi dynasty would be accepted as monarch, or constitutional monarch, or in any other official capacity. The struggle would continue, and the oil strike would be maintained, until "the shah leaves," he declared.

Stating that the Iranian people have so far received no help from any government, he called on all countries which support the revolution to demonstrate their support by helping "this oppressed people reach its goals."

If the shah's abdication is delayed much longer, he pledged, "other courses of action, other forms of struggle will definitely be considered."

Already, the Iranian Armed Forces are beginning to turn against the shah, who "will definitely lose the army, and with it, his last hope," he added.

Asked whether he saw any connection between the Iranian revolt and the signs of insurrection in Turkey, Khomeyni said: "The sacred movement of Iran is an Islamic movement, and it is therefore natural that all Muslims of the world be affected by it."

I talked to Khomeyni in his suburban Paris residence in Neauphle-le-Chateau. The room in which he received me had no chairs. I found him seated on the floor, studying photographs of Iranian demonstrations, looking plainly shaken.

I was invited to sit at a respectable distance from him, after hiding my hair with a scarf. At one point before the interview, which was conducted in Persian through a translator, I was asked to adjust my scarf, which had slipped to show a lock of hair.

At another point, while the photographer was taking pictures, the ayatollah asked me to put a more respectable distance between him and myself.

Outside, in the garden of the residence, guarded by French police, a large crowd of mainly Iranian people was milling around a sizable white and blue tent on which a sign in French read: "Better to die than to submit to humiliation."

The people--students, scholars, shaykhs, women--were waiting for Khomeyni to emerge and lead them to prayer inside the tent, as he does daily.

After the prayers, Khomeyni generally remains in the tent for a while, answering the questions of his followers--all dealing with Iran's prospects.

I was watching as the tall religious leader walked out into the garden, and I saw the people rush toward him, hero-worship in their eyes.

He led the way into the tent, and a loud "allhu akhar" chorus announced the beginning of the prayer. The prayer was for Iran--a shah-less Islamic republic of Iran.

The following is a translation of my full interview with the ayatollah:

Question: What do you foresee for Iran in 1979?

Answer: The departure of the shah is definite. Following his departure there will be drastic changes in the system--politically, economically, etc.

It is a certainty that the situation in Iran will not calm down before the shah is gone, his dynasty and monarchical regime eradicated, and an Islamic republic established.

Today, in spite of the military power of the shah, our people in Iran have the initiative and are in control of their actions. They are the ones who will initiate these actions and, step by step they are pressuring the regime of Iran and its supporters.

This nation will in the near future, perhaps in the next few months, witness more splendid victories.

Question: What will happen if the shah does not leave or is not overthrown?

Answer: If his departure is delayed much longer, then other courses of action, other forms of struggle will definitely be considered. My followers are preparing themselves for a confrontation. They have told me so, and I have given my permission.

Question: In what circumstances do you think a compromise with the shah would be possible? would you, for instance, agree to constitutional amendments that would turn him into a symbolic head of state, like the queen of England?

Answer: First of all, compromise with a criminal like the shah would be treason against the people of Iran and against Islam.

Secondly, the people of Iran condemned the shah and the monarchical regime in their referendum of the ninth and tenth of Muharram. With an overwhelming majority, they demanded the establishment of an Islamic republic.

Thus, no one has the right to compromise with the shah, who has already abdicated from the people's point of view, and no one has the right to accept the monarchy, whether the shah or anyone else is in power.

For this same reason, the constitution which recognizes the regime of Iran as a monarchy is, from the people's point of view, discredited, and a new constitution should be prepared.

Question: Would you accept the shah's abdication in favor of his son?

Answer: No one from the Pahlavi dynasty would be acceptable to the people of Iran. They would be unacceptable not only in the position of monarch but also in any other public or governmental position. They have no right to intervene.

Question: Do you think events in Iran are in any way related to happenings in Turkey?

Answer: The sacred movement in Iran is an Islamic movement, and it is therefore natural that all the Muslims of the world be affected by it.

Question: What states do you believe support you in your efforts to topple the shah?

Answer: The people of Iran, armed with their strong will, depend on Allah's help in their movement. By no means do they depend on any government. With the help of Allah, they will overthrow the shah and protect their independence.

The duty of other governments, if they are ready to help the people of Iran, is to have good relations with the Iranian people and to help this oppressed people reach its goals.

So far, no government has defended the people of Iran.

Question: How would you describe your current relations, as leaders of the opposition in Iran, with the Carter administration, the Soviet Union, China, the Iraqi Government, Egyptian President as-Sadat, Israel and the PLO?

Answer: The President of the United States, who has maintained his unconditional support of the shah of Iran and continued to insult the people of Iran, is considered one of the enemies of Iran.

The Soviet Union, though not on the same level as the U.S., has not condemned the shah, but has instead supported him. The Soviets have also misrepresented the sacred Islamic movement of Iran.

The Chinese prime minister has walked over the bodies of our people and admired the developmental measures of the shah.

The Iraqi Government, under the pressure of the shah, has been prevented from taking any steps to benefit the people of Iran within its borders.

As-Sadat is disliked by the Arab and Islamic world because of his steps against the interests of the Muslim people in the Arab countries and our Palestinian brothers.

From the point of view of Islam, Israel is an aggressor and we won't hesitate to take steps to end her aggression.

I have supported, on different occasions, the struggle of Yasir 'Arafat to regain the rights of the Palestinians and to return the Muslim lands to the Muslims.

Question: What is your reaction to the designation of Shahpur Bakhtiar as Iran's new prime minister: Does he have your blessing? Would you consider returning to Iran now that Bakhtiar has said you would be welcome back?

Answer: (paraphrased by Khomeyni's aide and interpreter): "The ayatollah would rather not comment on this matter yet. He is still pondering it and prefers to remain silent for the time being, because current circumstances are very delicate.

"As for Bakhtiar's statement that the ayatollah is welcome back in Iran, everyone has at one time or another made similar statements. The ayatollah says he will return to Iran when he feels it is proper for him to return."

Question: Are you satisfied with Bakhtiar's statement about stopping oil supplies to Israel and South Africa?

Answer: (paraphrased by his aid and interpreter): "Again, the ayatollah says he would rather not comment on this matter now."

Question: Is your call for an oil strike open-ended, or do you envisage a situation where it will be called off, short of the shah's abdication?

Answer: The oil strike will continue until the shah abdicates. The shah has been giving our oil to the United States to strengthen its government, without any permission or legitimacy. With the revenues, he has been buying American-made arms which are in no way useful to the people of Iran.

Essentially, the oil has so far been a cushion or a support of the aggressor state of the shah. I have given orders that no more oil be exported, and these strikes will continue until the shah leaves. We will then sell our oil to the various countries to which we wish to sell.

Question: Under what circumstances, if any, do you see the imperial army turning against the shah?

Answer: The soldiers and the officers, according to the reports we have received, have already started disobeying the orders of their leaders, and this is increasing every day.

Soldiers are deserting the army, and in many instances they have killed their superiors. A lot of those who are still in the army do not approve of the shah's bloodshed. The shah will definitely lose the army, and with it, his last hope.

Question: What form of government will yours be?

Answer: The future government will be an Islamic republic based on the votes of the people. There will be elections, and we will not have a one-party system.

KUWAITI PAPER: U.S. BACKS MOVES FOR PRO-SHAH COUP

LD150935Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 15 January--Three pro-shah senior officers are planning to stage a coup with the support of the United States, a local newspaper here reports today.

Quoting reports from Washington attributed to Iranian opposition circles abroad, the [unnamed] paper says that the three military commanders are: Gen Khosrow Ferdowsi, commander of the imperial guard; Gen 'Abbas Qarabaghi, member of the newly formed Regency Council and chief of the Supreme Commander's Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, and Gen Ja'far Shafaqat, the war minister.

According to the newspaper, five colonels are to help the generals in their coup, and the generals are preparing for the coup and only awaiting the right moment for it. The U.S. Government supports the idea of the coup, the paper says.

Rumors about an impending coup have increased since the shah announced 10 days ago his desire to go abroad for rest because of the exhaustion he has suffered as a result of over 1 year of political activity against him. However, Iranian Prime Minister Bakhtiar said he does not fear any military movement against his government, which was formed on 7 January.

KUWAITI PAPER ON POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL FROM GULF ISLANDS

LD161022Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 16 January--The newspaper AS-SIYASAH says today that Iran might withdraw from strategic Arab islands at the entrance to the Arabian Gulf which Iran took over more than 7 years ago.

The paper attributes this report to Palestinian sources in Damascus, quoting circles of Iranian opposition religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, who lives in exile near Paris.

The paper says that in the coming period Iran will leave Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa Islands as an early expression of good will and desire to promote Arab-Iranian cooperation with open hearts and without any difficulties.

The occupation of the two Tunbs islands, which belong to Ra's al-Khaimah Emirate, and Abu Musa Island, which belongs to Ash-Sharīqah Emirate, caused some tension in Iran's relations with the Arab states which rejected the Iranian (?Government) claims that these islands are part of its territory.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN COMMENTARIES ON 10 JAN

LD151916 [Editorial Report LD] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 10 January carries three unattributed commentaries. The first is 6 minutes long and deals with the interdependence between urban and rural Iran. The commentary notes that because these two parts of Iran are dependent upon each other, rural Iran demands the ouster of the shah's bloodletting regime and the establishment of a government of the people throughout the country. According to the commentary, the farmers demand, among other things, the implementation of true land reform in the country and the freedom to elect their own cooperatives and village community leaders.

The second commentary is 3 minutes long and notes that the shah's regime planned to export about 300 million tons of Iranian oil per year, thereby depleting the nation's important oil reserves in about 13 years. The commentary denounces the regime for having squandered nearly three-quarters of the nation's oil revenue on arms purchases.

The third commentary is 2 minutes long and stresses the Pahlavi regime's corruption and that of those associated with it. The commentary emphasizes that such a regime has no right to remain in power.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN SCORES BAKHTIAR POLICY 15 JAN

TA160927 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 15 January carries two commentaries. The first scores Bakhtiar for setting up a pro-shah government "despite so much treachery, crime, unlawfulness and corruption" which the shah's regime committed. It says: "Bakhtiar should have been aware more than anybody that the shah's regime is the source of all treason, crime and corruption." The commentary also questions Bakhtiar's motive in stating that he will set up a special commission to investigate SAVAK's activities and to prosecute and punish those SAVAK members who have committed crimes. It asks why Bakhtiar has so far ignored the activities of SAVAK, which "every day commits savage crimes against the country's people and against even young boys and girls."

The commentary adds that the people want "a government which will punish those who have violated the people's life and property and their chastity and honor," and will believe "only in the word of a politician who will abolish the shah's bloodshedding regime and expel its leaders from the country." It concludes: "The source of all crime and corruption is the shah's criminal regime, and anyone who in any way tries to protect and preserve it will be condemned in the conscience and history of the Iranian nation."

The second commentary discusses the U.S. "strategic interests" in the area within the context of developments in Iran and scores Bakhtiar's policy. After saying that the "Bakhtiar government's policy in many ways conforms to President Carter's Iranian policy," the commentary adds: "What our countrymen want is the expulsion of the shah from the country and the abolition of his regime, an end to the critical U.S. intervention in our internal affairs, the expulsion of American advisers and spies from Iran and the solution of the present conflict through a national and democratic government. Bakhtiar's premiership can only further strengthen U.S. interests."

The commentary then refers to "U.S. naval movements in the vicinity of Iranian shores." It says there are "more than 31,000 U.S. military personnel in Iran who are openly interfering in Iran's internal affairs." It says: "Our compatriots are aware of the U.S. intentions in Iran and that is why they have been calling for the expulsion of Americans from our country. U.S. interests and interventions in our country are the cause of growing countrywide anti-American demonstrations.... Thousands of people in all cities of the country have been demonstrating against the shah and Americans, shouting: 'Americans, get out of Iran,' and as a result bloody clashes are occurring between the demonstrators and the shah's police."

The commentary refers to General Huyser's visit to Iran and says that the aim is to strengthen the U.S. military presence there. It says: "U.S. elements in Iran have been supporting the shah regime's crimes and barbaric onslaught in a bid to destroy the Iranian people's national movement and bring about a new bloody coup d'etat."

In conclusion the commentary says that the people will continue the struggle against "U.S. influence and the shah's evil regime." It says: "The collapse of the shah's regime and the establishment of a national democratic government in our country will constitute a heavy blow to U.S. interests both in our country and in the neighboring countries."

RADIO OF PATRIOTS ON 'GANG OF SHAH' 12 JAN

TA122142 [Editorial Report TA] Radio of the Patriots [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1615 to 1645 GMT on 12 January carries a commentary explaining that, as discussed in yesterday's commentary, the despotism of the shah has risen to unprecedented levels. For 25 years the power of the throne has been absolute, and every obstacle has been eliminated. This, of course, was achieved at the expense of the Iranian nation. The sacred objectives of the people eventually prevailed because the people reached the breaking point, "and in this sacred uprising the people moved into action!"

"One year ago when the [word indistinct] people's fury reached the point of explosion, the leadership of the people's forces in opposition to the regime was an important instrument." However, the national revolutionary organizations and groups, despite their efforts in the struggle with the regime, were unable to take over the direction of the people.

"With respect to other developments, the war of the National Front and its political maneuvering continued." One element espoused one program while the other followed another policy.

"For the decision-making process of imperialism, the presence of the shah is an important factor. For imperialism the question was always posed: If the shah should go, who would be able to take over his definitive role without disruption. It must be recognized that if such a so-called 'personality' did exist, then by this time imperialism would have definitely replaced the shah.

"In the trenches of the progressive forces against the regime, as well, the role of a 'personality' has significance. The masses of the people have the same need [words indistinct] (?to have a personality) for their struggle. Despite the various reasons and factors which entered" into the development of the crisis, "one must also pay attention to the mistakes of the regime. The scale of these errors was not minor, especially since the existence of these errors was not without reason, and they are related to the character of the regime and its crisis."

When the cabinet of Jamshid Amuzegar came to power, we had distinct ties to the private capitalist sector of Iran. But the character of the regime was such that it did not and was not able to take effective action. In other words, the "gang of the shah" and his allies intervened in the formation of economic policy and frustrated reform. Although their programs looked possible on paper, in practice they did not work. The "gang of the shah" and their allies were unable to change the patterns of 50 years. This kind of treason and opportunism is difficult to change. These factors made the government programs of Amuzegar impossible.

RADIO OF PATRIOTS ON 'POLITICAL REVOLUTION' 14 JAN

TA151616 [Editorial Report TA] Radio of the Patriots [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran at 1615 to 1645 GMT on 14 January carries a commentary discussing the conditions of the revolution and the place of the ownership of capital. The commentary says: What Iran is currently experiencing, thanks to the revolutionary forces within society, is a political revolution. A true social revolution, however, requires a series of political revolutions--one of which is a revolution with respect to capitalism.

The developments of the past few days are important for setting the scene for more rapid steps to come. We must provide the conditions for accelerating these steps. Today the preconditions for revolution are present. The current revolution has as its objective the replacement of the shah and it is a political revolution. To date, the system of the ownership of capital has not been questioned, and ownership of capital has not lost its position in Iran.

"The objective of the current revolution has not yet become [words indistinct] the destruction of the capitalist system and the establishment of socialism. Therefore, the current revolution is not a social revolution, but rather a political revolution. This victorious political revolution will be a step toward the coming social revolution. And all of the forces of the revolutionary (?ranks) must not (?hesitate) to take any action or make any sacrifice on behalf of the success of this political revolution."

"This is a revolution that all those working against capitalism and all the forces united [remainder indistinct]."

AFGHANISTAN

GUERRILLAS CLAIM KILLING OF 15 GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS

BK121726Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 12 Jan (AFP)--Muslim guerrillas killed 15 soldiers including two officers in three ambushes in the Dangam Valley in Kunar Province of Afghanistan during the past 12 days, a Muslim organisation claimed today.

The Jamaat-i-Islami Afghanistan, which is fighting the Taraki regime, said in a press release here that the first attack by guerrillas took place on January 2 followed by another on January 4 near Mahipar bridge. The third was conducted on January 5. The organisation said the information was brought by its workers who had come from the combat area.

The press release said they were awaiting details of a major attack on January 7 near Chankri in Kunar Province in which the organisation claimed that 1,000 soldiers were killed or captured.

INDIA

CONGRESS-I DEMANDS RECOGNITION OF NEW CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT

BK121657Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 12 Jan (AFP)--The opposition Congress Party, led by former Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, today demanded immediate recognition by India of the new regime in Kampuchea (Cambodia).

Commenting on the recent changes in Kampuchea, the party General Secretary A.R. Antulay, said: "The congress has always extended its moral support and sympathies to popular movements all over the world. It has also extended recognition to popular governments which reflect the urges and aspirations of the people. There should be no reason why the Government of India should not recognise the new government in Kampuchea immediately. The new government with popular backing has come to stay," he said.

Although India has not yet recognised the new regime in Cambodia, press reports here indicate that the government is sympathetic towards the new government in Phnom Penh. Official sources here point out that the People's Revolutionary Council had not yet asked for recognition by New Delhi.

RAM: U.S. SHOULD NOT DISTURB SUBCONTINENT MILITARY BALANCE

BK121327Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Jagjivan Ram, has said that India is committed to peace and friendly relations with all countries, but at the same time we will have to keep ourselves in a state of preparedness to meet any unprovoked aggression. He made it clear that there has been no increase in the strength of the armed forces.

Mr Jagjivan Ram was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi. In reply to a question, the defense minister said that the government is aware of the developments in neighboring countries. He expressed the hope that the United States will not do anything that will disturb the military balance in the subcontinent. He reiterated India's stand that the Indian Ocean should remain a zone of peace.

AFGHAN DELEGATION DISCUSSES ECONOMIC COOPERATION

BK121638Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Afghanistan has expressed its desire to enlarge and intensify cooperation with India. A five-member Afghan delegation led by the deputy minister for planning, Mr Fateh Mohammad Tarim, has had 2 days of discussions with an official team in New Delhi on the progress of various agreements. The Indian delegation was led by the foreign secretary, Mr Jagat Mehta. The discussions will be resumed on Monday.

The Afghan side wanted acceleration of the programs already agreed upon. They are particularly keen on increased training facilities in India for their nationals and for more Indian experts. They also suggested enlargement of the sphere of cooperation about which preliminary talks were held last September when Mr Vajpayee was in Kabul. These include paper industry, manufacture of match boxes, caustic soda, asbestos, agricultural implements, construction and maintenance of roads and adult education programs. Details of these are being discussed. The Indian side assured the Afghan delegation that India would try its best to help.

PAKISTAN

SENIOR AFGHAN DIPLOMAT SEEKS POLITICAL ASYLUM

BK141624Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1622 GMT 14 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 14 (AFP)--A senior Afghan diplomat sought political asylum in Pakistan today, Pakistan Foreign Ministry sources said. The source said the diplomat is Mohammad Hakim Sarbiland, consul general of Afghanistan at Karachi in southern Pakistan since 1976. Diplomatic circles in Karachi said Mr Sarbiland had been scheduled to leave his post as his term was expiring.

The Afghan ambassador here, Abdul Rashid Arian [as received], told AFP Mr Sarbiland had been called back to Kabul.

Diplomat Denial

BK151002Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0942 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Karachi, Jan 15 (AFP)--The Afghan consul-general, Mr Hakim Sarbiland, today denied that he or any other Afghan diplomat had sought political asylum with the Pakistan Government. A high official of the Pakistan Foreign Office in Islamabad had said last night that the Afghan consul-general in Karachi had defected and sought political asylum in Pakistan.

Earlier, the PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL (PPI) news agency had also circulated a Karachi datelined story about a high Afghan official seeking political asylum with the Pakistan Government.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES WHITE PAPER ON BHUTTO ABUSES

BK151728Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The first of the four volumes of a white paper on various aspects of the performance of the Bhutto government and the conduct of its important personalities issued by the federal government in Rawalpindi today shows how millions of rupees of public funds were misused by Mr Bhutto, his family and close associates for private benefit. Three remaining volumes of the white paper will follow during the coming weeks.

The part released today is spread over 78 pages and is supported by documentary evidence covering 104 pages. It goes back to Mr Bhutto's past before he became a minister and includes a letter in which he praised the then president, Maj Gen Iskander Mirza, as a greater historical figure than Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Mr Bhutto wrote: When the history of our country is written by objective historians your name will be placed even before Mr Jinnah. I say this because I mean it and not because you are the president of my country.

The white paper produces (?copies of) documentary evidence to show that a few weeks before his appointment as a minister in the martial law government headed by General Mirza, Mr Bhutto was contesting as an Indian citizen the decision of the Indian authorities declaring him an evacuee to Pakistan. His appeal to the Supreme Court of India, which was admitted for regular hearing in May 1957, was withdrawn by him nearly 3 weeks after he had taken oath as a minister of Pakistan.

The White paper has also reproduced a note by Mr Bhutto himself admitting that it was he who suggested to President Ayub Khan in 1959 to elevate himself to the rank of field marshal.

The white paper says that vast public resources involving millions of rupees were misused by Mr Bhutto for his own and his family's benefit. More than 6 million rupees were spent out of public funds on his two private houses at Karachi and Larkana, both of which were unlawfully treated as official residences.

The white paper says there is also evidence of duty-free import of luxury goods out of all proportion to the entitlement for Mr Bhutto and his family's personal use. The total value of these goods which included motor cars, chandeliers, carpets, marble furniture and bathroom sets was about 1.9 million rupees as against the entitlement of 200,000 rupees. The duty and tax evaded on these imports in excess of the entitlement are estimated at over 2 million rupees. Apart from these duty-free imports, Mr Bhutto incurred on his personal account a total foreign exchange expenditure of over 1.5 million rupees during the years 1972-77. A part of this exchange was spent on the purchase of guns and tape recorders and on foreign education and travel of his children. The misappropriation of 12 jeeps out of an Iranian gift of 150 jeeps to Pakistan also figured in one of the cases.

The white paper says that considerable evidence has been found of the involvement of the Bhutto family in unauthorized transactions in foreign currency. Although Mrs Nusrat Bhutto had categorically denied that she ever held an account in any foreign bank, the white paper has produced photostat copies of two documents which confirmed the holding of a bank account by her abroad.

The two trusts created by the Bhutto family during the years 1973-74 have been found vitiated by serious irregularities designed to serve the material interests of the family at the public expense. The white paper says several other dignitaries of the regime followed in the footsteps of Mr Bhutto and his family in the misuse of public resources for private benefit.

The white paper says Maulana Kausar Niazi appears to have misused a part of the Hadj Welfare Fund for purchase of air conditioners, a refrigerator, TV set and some other luxuries for his residence and office. There is no evidence of the deposit in the state treasury of an amount of 2,500 pounds received by him from a charitable institution of Muslims based in Manchester meant for distribution among the poor in Pakistan. He also misused his position as minister for religious affairs to promote the sales of his book at the expense of the public exchequer. The (?gross sales) of his books cost the government 1.9 million rupees of which he received over half a million by way of royalty.

The white paper says both Mr Z.A. Bhutto and Mr Mumtaz Bhutto, whom he called his talented cousin, are found to have been involved in the promotion of a project for the establishment of an international gambling house at Karachi. The project caused the Karachi development authorities a loss of over 23 million rupees. The dealing of the National Shipping Corporation and the Pakistan Shipping Corporation under the charge of Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto as minister have been found vitiated by a number of unworthy transactions and shady deals.

The white paper also includes a summary of the judgment of the various disqualification tribunals relating to Mr Ghulam Mustafa Khar, Mr Sadiq Hussain Qureshi, Mr Nasrullah Khan Khattak, Mr Abdul Wahid Khatpar and Mr Jam Sadiq Ali.

The white paper says most of the charges against Mr Khar that were proved before the relevant tribunal relate to land grabbing, in one case to downright coercion and forgery, in some cases without paying any price and in others at about half the prevailing market prices.

The tribunal that tried Mr Sadiq Hussain Qureshi found that, in violation of the conditions of the lease, he had sold 157 acres of land acquired from the government for a sum of 1,760,000 rupees without having obtained the sanction of the government. Another charge proved against him was that in flagrant disregard of repeated objections by the finance and law departments of his own government, he ordered the payment of inordinately high compensation amounting to over 900,000 rupees to the Greyhound Racing Association for the termination of the lease of government land. Yet another charge in which he was found guilty shows the wantonness with which the secret funds at the disposal of the government were spent by some of his important men.

Mr Abdul Wahid Khatpar, a senior minister in the Sind cabinet, was found guilty of having secured the allotment of a plot of land at the rate of 6 rupees per square yard as against the prevailing rate of 90 rupees. He thus obtained the pecuniary advantage of over 250,000 rupees. Another charge proved against Mr Khatpar was that he had manipulated the proceeds of his house in Larkana at a price out of all proportion to its market value by the Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Library Committee of which he was himself a member.

Jam Sadiq Ali, another provincial member of the Sind cabinet, was found guilty of various gross irregularities in the disposal of residential and commercial plots and the allotment of the community plots to individuals.

SIND HIGH COURT UPHOLDS FORMER MINISTER'S APPEAL

BK141118Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 14 Jan 79 BK

[Text] In Karachi today, the full bench of the Sind High Court upheld a joint appeal made by former federal minister, Mr Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, and Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto challenging their house arrests under martial law No 12. The court ordered their release provided that they are not involved in any other litigation.

MINISTER REFUTES VOA REPORT ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION

BK650142Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said Pakistan's foreign exchange position is quite sound and there is no truth in the Voice of America report that the country is going to default on the payment of its debt service.

Talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi, he said a statement issued by the state bank actually revealed improvement in the external reserve position of Pakistan.

According to the statement, the foreign exchange reserves increased by 68 million rupees, raising the figure to 2,987,000,000 rupees. He said the [overall] foreign exchange reserve position registered an improvement of 359.7 million rupees. As for the gold and bullion position, these had risen to 5,044,000,000 from 3,769,000,000 rupees.

DEFENSE EXPENDITURES TO BE REDUCED 5 PERCENT

BK150310Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The federal cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi under the chairmanship of chief martial law administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has decided to effect economy in the nondevelopment expenditure of the government during the current financial year.

Accordingly, a cut of 5 percent will be applied to the defense expenditure and 10 percent on all nondevelopment expenditure, excluding debt services and subsidies, but including grants to provinces. In addition, savings will also accrue, presently estimated at 83 million rupees, because of nonutilization to the full extent of some of the provisions in the current year's budget. The total savings on the nondevelopmental account will come to 534 million rupees.

SHIPPING MINISTER GOKAL RESIGNS FROM CABINET

BK150125Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The chief martial law administrator informed the cabinet [on 14 January] that he had reluctantly accepted the resignation of the federal minister for shipping, ports and exports promotion [Mr Mustafa Gokal], who had tendered his resignation on account of personal reasons resulting from his business commitments.

Mr Gokal will, however, continue as an advisor to the chief martial law administrator on matters relating to shipping and ports.

SRI LANKA

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PRINCE SIHANOUK

BK141156Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk has informed the foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, through the Sri Lanka mission to the United Nations, that he does not want a normal meeting convened at this stage to discuss the situation in Kampuchea.

Prince Sihanouk, who called at our New York mission at 1400 New York time on Friday the 12th, conveyed warm personal greetings to President Jayewardene and Foreign Minister Hameed and urged that nonaligned countries should not rush to recognize the Heng Samrin regime of Kampuchea.

Speaking to Ambassador Mr B.J. Fernando, Prince Sihanouk requested that Mr Hameed be informed that the Pol Pot government remained in control over a few towns near the Thai border and parts of the countryside. He described the military situation as being far from bad. Calling for a Security Council resolution affirming the principles of non-aggression and noninterference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea, the prince warned that the intervention by external forces could result in a regional war or worse. He alleged that the developments in Kampuchea were a prelude to the Soviet Union replacing the United States in Southeast Asia.

PRIME MINISTER OPENS COLOMBO GROUP OF 77 MEETING

BK151455Y Colombo International Service in English 1245 GMT 15 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa, stressed the need for regional cooperation when he addressed the inaugural session of the 4th ministerial meeting of the Asian Group of 77 at the EMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] in Colombo this morning. While informing the delegates that Sri Lanka since 1977 has attached great importance to the concept of Asian regional cooperation, the prime minister said that we had in a number of international forums and at bilateral discussions stressed the importance of forging greater cooperation among the Asian countries. He expressed the hope that his conference in Colombo will provide an impetus for constructive actions toward greater cooperation between all Asian countries.

Mr Premadasa said that economic cooperation among developing countries is unavoidable today. Dealing with the subject of the new international economic order, the prime minister reminded the delegates that we are witnessing today a new round of protectionism that seeks to build a higher tariff world against the exports from developing countries. He also pointed out that the benefits of trade are mutual and that the developed countries by introducing new groups of protectionism can create a situation that will bring adverse results not only to the developing countries but also to themselves.

The leader of the Sri Lanka delegation, trade and shipping minister Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, who was elected president of the UNCTAD 4th ministerial meeting this morning, said that the international community must act in a new and more comprehensive way to prevent a (?calamitous) breakdown of the world economy. Developing countries, he said, must have a greater share in the management of the world system and in the establishment of a new international economic order.

Referring to the Nairobi UNCTAD meeting in 1976, the minister pointed out that an important outcome was the integrated program for commodities directed toward the establishment of a common fund. The processing of primary products, compensatory financing and share of developing countries in marketing, distribution and transportation needed attention. He said protectionism and such policies have to be given up and developed countries must reaffirm their commitments to the principle of open access to markets. He also placed emphasis on the need for a just production pattern.

Speaking of debt reliefs, Mr Athulathmudali said that collective efforts must be made to seek the widest possible coverage of relief on UDA [not further amplified] debt. He also emphasized collective self-reliance and the need for economic cooperation.

The secretary general of UNCTAD, Dr Gamani Corea, regretted that much of the work following the Nairobi meeting is not completed. The current discussions, he said, will pave the way for a common stand for the forthcoming Manila meeting, particularly on the commodity arrangement and the transport technology.